WORLD / A24

US senators agree on immigration reform legislation

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't posted P12-B budget surplus in April

NEWS / A2

Bomb explodes in Cotabato City; 5-year-old boy killed

NEWS / A2

Special elections in Lanao del Sur scheduled May 26

NEWS / A2

Kin of Mark Jimenez's wife hit police inaction

3 Pinays finish Everest traverse, make history

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S OFFICIAL.

Three Filipinas—a physical education major, a sport climber and a first-time mother who gave birth five months ago—have made it to the history books as the first women to complete a traverse climb on Mt. Everest, that is, climbing from the North Side to the peak and then down

3 PINAYS/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, May 19, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 160 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Toss of coin breaks tie for town council seat

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—Two candidates for councilor here tied for the eighth and last place and an election officer suggested they flip a coin to determine the

TOSS/ A8

NA AYOS NG CARA Y CRUZ!

MIRACLE IN PAMPANGA

Fr. Ed wins by slimmest of margins vs Pineda, Lapid

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Winning by the slimmest of margins, Fr. Eddie Panlilio became the first Catholic priest in the country to be elected to public office in what is being touted as a "people-powered" unprecedented run for governor of Pampanga.

"It's a miracle, of course. And we worked hard for it. It's God's way of saying it's time to change, to serve His people, especially the poor," said the 53-year-old priest.

"Welcome to a new era in Pampanga politics," said Panlilio who got a total of 219,706 votes in the six-cornered race, winning by a lead of only 1,147 votes.

The decisive votes that clinched his victory came from Magalang, a predominantly Catholic town, where 11,095 residents voted for him.

Panlilio's major rivals were Lilia Pine-

MIRACLE/ A4

THE FIRST CATHOLIC PRIEST in the country to be elected to public office, Fr. Ed Panlilio (superimposed at right) is proclaimed winner in San Fernando, Pampanga, on Friday night as his supporters cheer. He made it by what is now being touted as a "people-powered" unprecedented run. BOY CABRIDO

Namfrel men barred from Maguindanao canvassing

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Norman Bordadora

VOLUNTEERS OF THE NATIONAL CITIzens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) have confirmed that elections did take place in Maguindanao, but they are clueless as to whether the results have been tabulated or any of the votes cast on May 14 have been counted at all.

This was disclosed yesterday by Namfrel chair Edward Go, who said all volunteers doing monitoring work for the group had finally been accounted for, following earlier fears that they might not be safe.

Go said chapter coordinators in Maguindanao reported that no one

NAMFREL/ A8

Still 8-2-2 for GO in Comelec count

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE GENUINE OPPOSITION CONTINUES to dominate the senatorial race, according to latest results from the ongoing national canvassing of the Commission on Elections as of last night.

Eight GO candidates, two Team Unity candidates and two independent candidates were in the Magic 12 as of 10:30 p.m.

Loren Legarda (GO) was still No. 1 with 1,374, 267 votes.

Among the big gainers last night were Gregorio Honasan (independent) who climbed from the 13th slot to 8th and Antonio Trillanes IV (GO) from 12th to 9th.

On the other hand, Aquilino Pimentel III (GO) slid from 8th to 11th while Joker Arroyo (TU) fell from 9th to 12th place.

Francis Escudero (GO) maintained his second spot with 1,306,492 votes, followed by fellow GO candidates Panfilo Lacson with 1,176,602 and Manuel Villar with 1,108,395.

Francis Pangilinan (independent) was fifth with 1,051,520 votes, followed by Benigno Aquino III (GO) with 995,517 and Alan Peter Cayetano (GO) with 892,134.

Honasan climbed to 8th with 854,458 votes as votes from Aurora, Quirino, Ifugao and La Union were canvassed.

Trillanes improved to 9th place with 845,186 votes.

Still at 10th place was Edgardo Angara (TU) with 832,403 votes.

Pimentel slid to 11th place with 792,284 votes while Arroyo fell to the

STILL/ A8

Torched school to be named after teacher

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alcuin Papa

TAYSAN, BATANGAS—FOR MAKING THE ultimate sacrifice to defend the ballot, teacher Nellie Banaag will be remembered for a very long time—the Pinagbayanan Elementary School where she died will be named after her after it is rebuilt.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited this town yesterday to condole with the families of Banaag and poll watcher Leticia Ramos, has given the Philippine

TORCHED/ A4

right riding

EDWIN BACASMAS

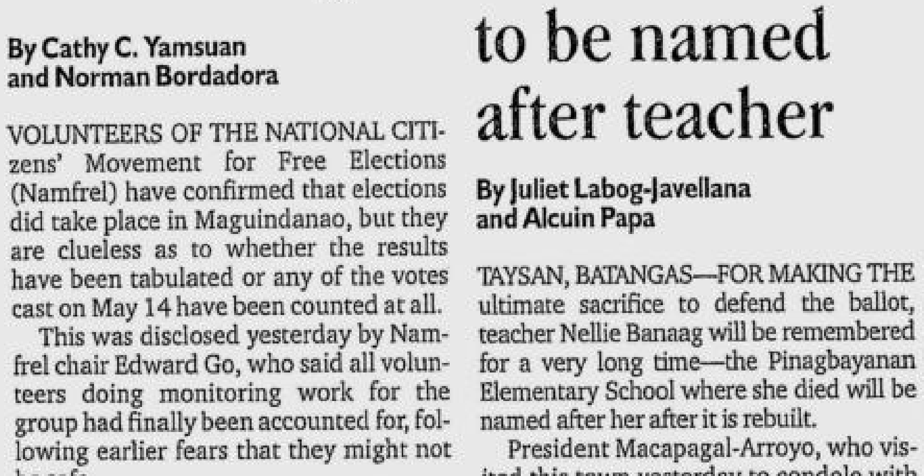
HONORS FROM GMA: President Arroyo travels to Taysan in Batangas where poll watchers Nellie Banaag and Leticia Ramos died. At the chapel where Nellie's remains lie, she reaches out to her children Bernadette, 14, Galileo Jr., 12 and Michelle, 20.

ELEKSYON 2007
NAMFREL TALLY

54,091 out of 224,748 precincts
As of 9:36 p.m. May 18, 2007

1	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	3,343,488
2	ESCUDERO, Francis	GO	3,250,053
3	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	2,960,344
4	PANGILINAN, Francis	Ind	2,791,385
5	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	2,779,379
6	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	2,669,906
7	ANGARA, Edgardo	TU	2,448,672
8	ARROYO, Joker	TU	2,169,358
9	HONASAN, Gregorio	Ind	2,148,540
10	CAYETANO, Alan	GO	2,107,828
11	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	2,078,340
12	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	2,056,405
13	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	2,033,952
14	RECTO, Ralph	TU	2,031,958
15	PICHAY, Prospero	TU	1,960,155
16	DEFENSOR, Michael	TU	1,882,909
17	MONTANO, Cesar	TU	1,681,806
18	ROCO, Sonia	GO	1,562,338
19	OSMEÑA, John	GO	1,406,577
20	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	1,389,120

RP stocks surge to highest level in 80 years



A SINGLE GESTURE SAYS IT ALL: The Philippine Stock Exchange closes Friday at its highest finish since stock market trading began here in 1927. REUTERS

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SHARE PRICES SURGED YESTERDAY to their highest level in 80 years buoyed by heavy foreign buying, good economic indicators and higher corporate earnings, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index closed Friday at 3,449.18, its highest finish since stock market trading began in the Philippines in 1927. The index's previous historic high was 3,447.60 set on Feb. 3, 1997, shortly before the Asian financial crisis.

Traders said heavy foreign buying was spurred by an investor roadshow in Manila conducted early this week by global financial services giant JP Morgan for foreign fund managers.

"The JP Morgan conference boosted confidence and possibly translated into orders. The buying was coming from JP Morgan," said Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

Total foreign buying reached P2.75 billion yesterday as against total foreign selling of P1.676 billion. This translates to net foreign buying of roughly P1.07 billion.

"Market sentiment was buoyed by good economic indicators and corporate results. Also, election-related concerns are out of the way," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo was ecstatic.

"The vibrancy of Philippine democracy is matched by the exuberance of

RP STOCKS/ A15

Wolfowitz quits, ending global turmoil at WB

WASHINGTON—PAUL D. WOLFOWITZ, ending a furor over favoritism that blew up into a global fight over American leadership, announced his resignation as president of the World Bank Thursday evening after the bank's board accepted his claim that his mistakes at the bank were made in good faith.

The decision came four days after a bank investigative committee concluded that he had violated his contract by breaking ethical and governance rules in arranging the generous pay and promo-

WOLFOWITZ/ A15

EZ2 24 24 | FOUR DIGIT 2 3 2 0

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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(All in exact order)

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SYMON TRINOS, PDI RESEARCH/05/19/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Kin of MJ's wife hit police inaction

By Kristine L. Alave

THE FAMILY OF CAROL Jimenez, estranged wife of former Rep. Mark Jimenez, assailed the police for their slow action in implementing a court order to rescue Carol, who was kidnapped Wednesday and allegedly being held in a drug rehabilitation center in Parañaque City.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Rose Flaminiano, sister of Carol, said they were baffled with the police's refusal to break down the gates of Silvercrest, a rehabilitation center owned by Jimenez's niece, Diana Crespo.

A court order from the Taguig City Regional Trial Court ordered on Wednesday the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to "rescue" Carol from Silvercrest.

Flaminiano said members of the Makati SWAT team tried to take Carol from the facility that same day but after a while they pulled out.

"A certain general told them they should pull out," she said.

Flaminiano said that Carol was being held against her will inside the empty facility after she was kidnapped by eight men from the Tuscany condominium in Makati City on Wednesday morning.

She said Jimenez could have drugged her sister, who was granted a temporary restraining order against her husband who has physically and mentally abused her since the '70s.

Flaminiano said they were afraid that Jimenez, who served as "financial adviser" to deposed President Joseph Estrada and became a Manila representative, could have used his influence on police and military officers to hinder Carol's release.

"He's still well-connected to the military," Flaminiano said, adding that Jimenez had pledged money and housing to the police and the Armed Forces.

She also said they received information that Jimenez's lawyers presented a document to the police showing he had filed a petition at a Makati court to confine Carol in a rehabilitation center due to a barbiturate addiction.

Faminiano said that Carol was never a drug addict and the petition was bogus. "We checked, there was no petition."

Meanwhile, the Makati City police said they were trying to do everything they can to rescue Carol.

Boy killed, 30 hurt in Cotabato bombing

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, *Inquirer Mindanao,* **Christine O. Avendano and Michael Lim Ubac**

COTABATO CITY—A POWERFUL BOMB RIPPED through a busy bus terminal here yesterday morning, killing a 5-year-old boy and wounding at least 30 other people, police and hospital officials said.

The bomb, an improvised explosive device fashioned out of an 81-mm mortar shell, was placed in a box and left beside a store inside the Weena Bus terminal along Don Rufino Alonzo Avenue, investigators said.

When it went off at around 11:05 a.m., it wreaked havoc on people milling about the terminal and on the store and was heard as far as from 3 kilometers away.

"It was a very loud explosion. I immediately crawled under the table," a woman who sustained minor injuries told Radio dxMS here.

"Nobody among us noticed the box. There were reports that a woman carried it inside the terminal then left, but almost all the people in the terminal carry bags and boxes. We really don't know," she added in the vernacular.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was informed of the blast while visiting a torched school in Taysan, Batangas at noon yesterday, condemned the attack and ordered the police to conduct a speedy investigation.

"We condemn in the strongest terms this attack on innocent civilians," said Ms Arroyo. She ordered a "full investigation so that justice may be brought to bear on the perpetrators."

The President also ordered the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with local authorities, to assist the families of the victims.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. indicated yesterday that the toll in the blast had reached three fatalities as he ordered the deployment of additional troops in Cotabato City following the bombing.

Military information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said that while investigators were not discounting the theory that the explosion could have been the work of terrorists, they were also looking into the possibility that it could have been done by extortionists.

"Initial findings indicate that it might be extortion-related as the same bus company was similarly attacked last May 14," Bacarro said.

June Adam, Weena Bus terminal manager, said that he had been informed by the police minutes before the blast that they had received a phone call warning about a bomb planted inside the terminal.

He said that consequently, using a public address system, he informed the people inside the compound to be extra careful and report any suspicious material or incident. But his warning apparently failed to prevent wide-scale harm when the bomb detonated minutes later.

"We're still investigating the motives and identities of the bombers. We're not ruling out a terror attack although the Weena Bus company has been a favorite target of extortionists in the past," said Chief Superintendent Felizardo Serapio Jr., the regional police chief.

Serapio said post-blast investigators rushed to the scene to collect pieces of evidence that might be cross-matched with those found in previous bomb attacks in central Mindanao.

The boy who was killed was identified as Adrian Tanggao. At least 10 of the wounded were children selling candies, boiled eggs and bottled water to passengers.

The wounded were rushed to at least two hospitals.

Norma Reyes, chief emergency room nurse at Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, said 27 victims were brought there including Tanggao. At least nine of the wounded were in critical condition, including Tanggao's 7-year-old sister, Melanie, Reyes said.

Another hospital reported receiving 10 casualties. *With a report from AP*

Lanao special polls to be held May 26

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS will hold special elections in Lanao del Sur on May 26 after elections were postponed in 13 towns in the province following complaints by members of the Board of Elections Inspectors (BEIs) that they were harassed and received threats of bodily harm.

An estimated 100,000 voters failed to cast their votes last May 14 in the province. The Comelec said the figure was significant enough to affect the status of senatorial candidates fighting for the last slots in the winning circle.

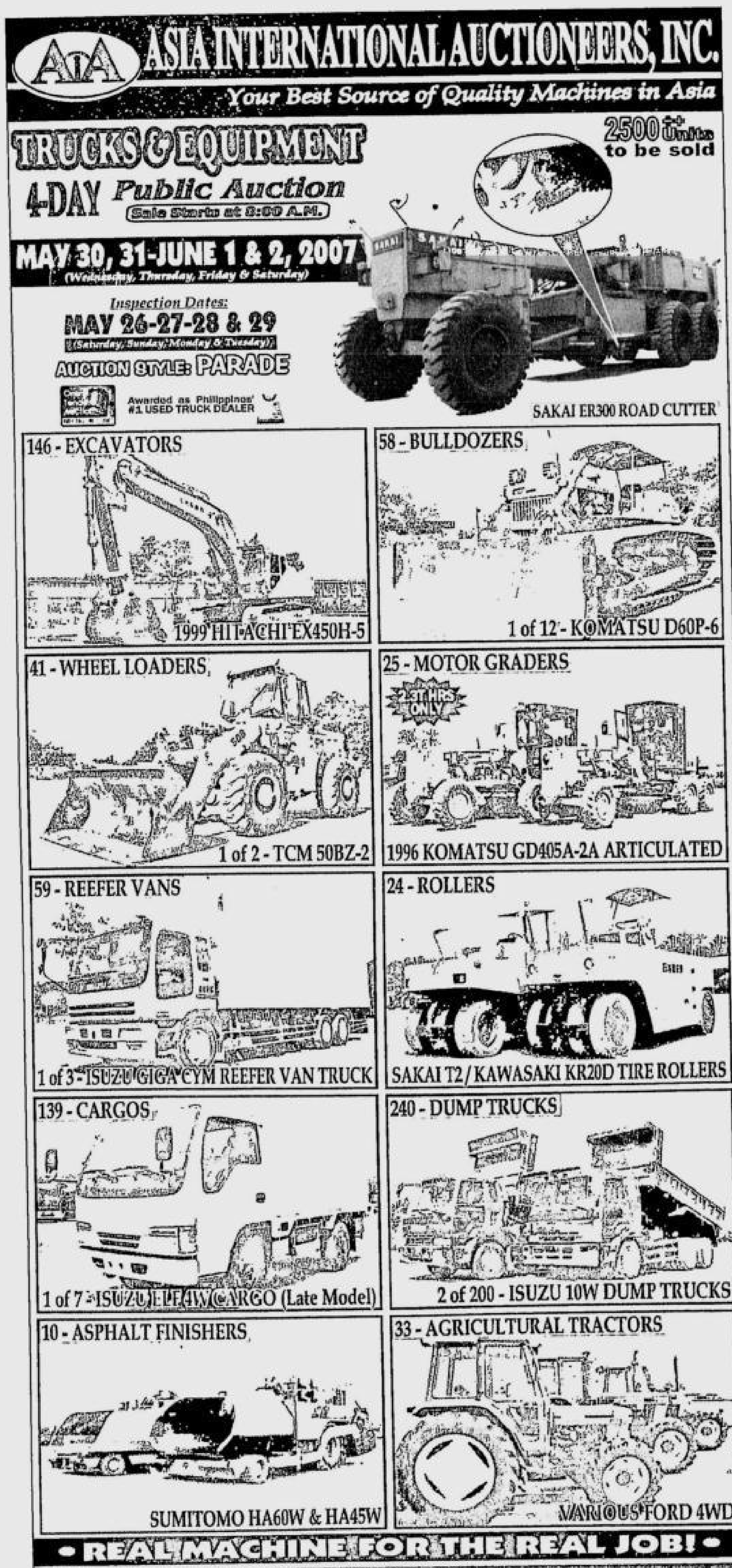
Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday the commission decided on the date in an en banc session held Thursday night after the national canvassing of votes for senators and party-list groups.

Abalos said candidates would no longer be allowed to campaign, noting that the campaign period had officially ended last May 12.

He identified the towns where special elections were to be held as Bayang, Lumbatan, Madalum, Binidayan, Puales, Sultan Dumalondong, Lumbabayabao, Maui, Kapai, Lumbayanague, Butig, Maruging and Kapatagan.

Voters in Indanan, Sulu and in the towns of Akbar and Sumisip in Basilan also failed to cast their ballots on May 14 as teachers, claiming intimidation, also refused to administer elections in the areas.

Abalos said that the commission en banc only discussed and decided on holding special elections in Lanao del Sur. He added that the commissioners still had to conduct a special hearing on the petitions to declare a failure of elections in Sulu and Basilan.



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Season's 1st storm hardly felt

THE FIRST STORM this season hit the eastern part of the country yesterday afternoon, but it was too insignificant to trigger heavy rains, weather bureau officials said.

The center of tropical storm "Amang," with maximum sustained winds of 95 kph, was spotted at 920 km east of Samar at 4 p.m., Nathaniel Cruz, weather branch chief of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said.

"This is an ordinary cyclone. We should just expect the usual thunderstorms lasting for 20 minutes, and not the heavy rains that we experience during the rainy season. It's insignificant," he said in a phone interview. "It has no effect except for those living in the eastern seaboard of the country."

Amang was the first storm to enter the country's area of responsibility this year. It wasn't unusual for such a cyclone to come in around this time of the year. Last year, the first typhoon hit the country as early as January.

"With the entry of the first storm, we have to prepare for the coming rainy season," Cruz said, but stressed that the storm does not signal the onset of the rainy season.

Normally, a typhoon would enhance the southwest monsoon (Habagat), but Amang would not make such an impact because it would exit through the eastern section of the country, its point of entry, according to the official.

RP is top source of UN peacekeepers—Davide

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW THE TOP CONTRIBUTOR of individual police officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations reported yesterday.

Ambassador Hilario Davide, the Philippines' permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, said that the Philippines emerged last week as the main provider of police officers with 288 individual officers from the Philippine National Police (PNP) deployed in seven UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

He cited statistics from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as the basis for his statement.

"The Filipino police peacekeeper is doing our country proud by helping restore peace and rebuild lives in places as near as Timor Leste and as far as Sudan," Davide said in his report to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Aside from the Philippines, others on the list of the top 10 contributors of civilian police officers are the United States (284); Turkey (275); Germany (230); Cameroon (167); Niger (165); France (159); Ghana (144); Zimbabwe (121); and Burkina Faso (120).

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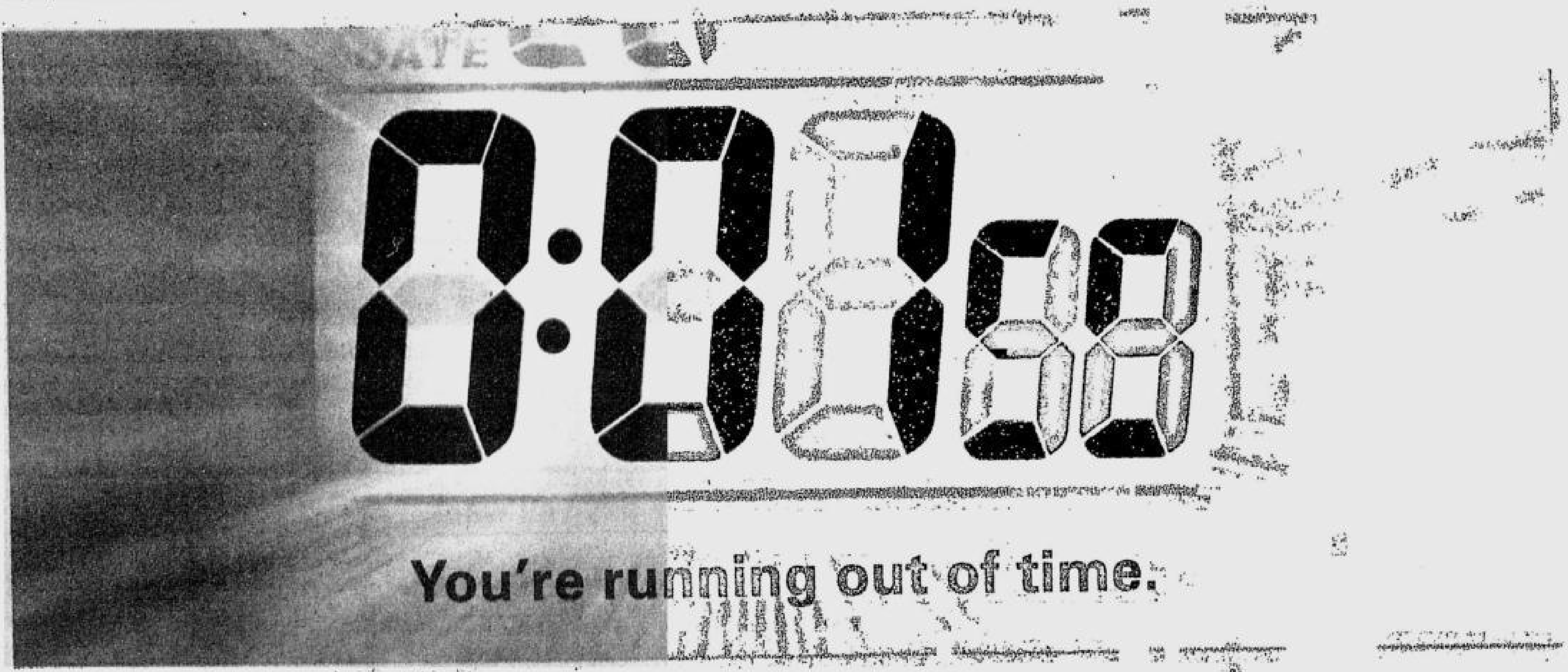

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Miracle in Pampanga

From page A1

da, an incumbent provincial board member, who got 218,559 votes, and reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid who received 210,875 votes.

Provincial prosecutor Jesus Manarang was midway into announcing the clincher score when Panlilio's supporters, who filled the bleachers of the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center where the provincial canvassing was held, threw up their hands in joy.

They were booed by the followers of Pineda who then began walking out of the convention center.

Panlilio's followers lapsed into silence, eagerly awaiting the priest's proclamation.

The other towns that delivered the winning votes for Panlilio were the City of San Fernando and Guagua, Minalin, Sto. Tomas and Sta. Rita towns.

Priest from Minalin

Panlilio, who comes from Minalin, has spent 26 years in the priesthood. He took a leave from his priestly duties on March 25, heeding the clamor of the province's Catholic laity to run as the alternative candidate to the two strongest candidates—Lapid and Pineda—who were hamstrung by corruption and illegal gambling issues.

Panlilio admitted it was a difficult battle, having no money or even machinery. He relied on a ragtag army of volunteers that swelled to some 30,000, including 33 lawyers led by the country's top four election counsels.

Their creative way of campaigning, their vigilance on Election Day and the days that followed were largely behind his victory, he said.

Volunteers for Panlilio guarded the ballots, sleeping at the town halls to avert any alterations of the election returns and certificates of canvass.

'Priest is king'

According to an old man, one of Panlilio's supporters, he had made true a Kapampangan adage: *Ing pari yang hari* (The priest is king)."

It refers to the moral influence that a man of the cloth has over his flock.

Panlilio becomes Pampanga's 26th governor since 1901.

His followers said they would call him "Among Gov."

"Among" is a Kapampangan term of endearment for priest. His Betis parishioners call Panlilio "Among Ed."

Panlilio said he would exercise a new kind of leadership that is consultative, participative, transparent and God-centered.

Good government

"The people deserve a good and honest government," he has said.

He noted that those who voted for him precisely expressed this through the power of their votes.

He said he hoped the providential hand of God would be with him during his term as governor.

Earlier, the Philippine National Police had to deploy 20 additional troops at the convention center to avert any confrontation between the supporters of Panlilio and Pineda.

This brought to 30 the number of policemen inside the center, according to Senior Supt. Keith Singian.

At least 12 other members of the Provincial Mobile Group maintained peace outside the center.

Commission on Elections provincial supervisor Temie Lambino requested for more troops when the situation inside the center became tense as the provincial canvassing board began reading the election results from the capital city and three towns.

Heckling vs praying

Results from the City of San Fernando brought 37,293 additional votes for Panlilio, narrowing down the lead of Pineda by 3,507.

Some 2,000 Pineda supporters who were sitting on the the right side of the bleachers clapped wildly or heckled those on the other side whenever the votes of their candidate were read.

Panlilio's supporters, most of whom had slept at the center to guard the ballot boxes and the election documents, ignored the heckling.

During the two-hour break that the board of canvassers called at 2 p.m., Panlilio's supporters recited the Rosary and sang prayer hymns.

Pineda's supporters responded with wild clapping.

THE GOOD FIGHTS

'Digs' back to Congress a changed man

THERE'S NO SHUTTING UP THE FORMER spokesperson of ousted President Joseph Estrada. If his lead in the counting continues, Didagen "Mr. Shut Up" Dilangalen will be back in the halls of Congress.

Only this time, the man who flared up at a note from the gallery telling him to shut up during the presidential election canvassing in 2004, is something of a changed man.

Dilangalen, who ran under Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, says he is not inclined to go along with the opposition's agenda to revive an impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I don't see any good and convincing reason to impeach her. It will not succeed. The country must move forward. Impeachment will only serve as a drawback to our steadily growing economy. We are all losers in the end," he said.

But Dilangalen denied insinuations that he had sold out to the administration.

"I live by my principles. I don't even know the meaning of fat concessions offered by the administration," he said.

Dilangalen, representing the defunct Maguindanao's first district which is now Shariff Kabunsuan and Cotabato City, said losing against his rival Lakas-CMD bet Bai Sandra Sema "is not even in my wildest dream." He leads by 10,000 votes.

His wife, three-term representative Bai Sendig Dilangalen, is lagging by a huge margin in the mayoral race for Cotabato City against the incumbent Muslimin Sema.

In Batangas, the Comelec board of canvassers rejected a petition of the lawyer of Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos for Santos to be proclaimed winner in the Batangas gubernatorial race against reelectionist Gov. Armando Sanchez.

Lawyer Aristotle Liwag insisted that Santos should be proclaimed winner since based on their party's count, the remaining votes would no longer affect the election results.

The board however declined, saying the canvassing of votes from Tanauan City and Balayan town should be finished.

The official Comelec tally as of 3 p.m. yesterday showed Santos, the actress-turned-politician, leading with 453,084 votes, followed by Sanchez 319,007, retired general Nestor Sanares 31,855 and Marcos Mandanas, 2,691.

Liwag said that the remaining votes from Balayan and Tanauan City would not exceed 115,000 while Santos' lead was more than these uncanvassed votes.

The canvassed results showed that Santos had won in all but six of the 34 towns of the province.

Santos' brother-in-law Vice Gov. Ricky Recto, the United Opposition (UNO) candidate for the fourth congressional district of Batangas, lost to Mark Leandro Mendoza, son of Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The Comelec has proclaimed Mendoza, a Nationalist People's Coalition bet, the winner with a total of 97,218 winning votes, followed by Sabili, 90,184 and Recto, 25,190.

The Batangas provincial Comelec has proclaimed reelectionist Rep. Eileen Ermita-Buhain, daughter of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, winner in the congressional race for the Batangas province's first district.

The Commission on Elections yesterday proclaimed Vice Gov. Victor Yap as the winner in the gubernatorial race in Tarlac. He will replace his father, Gov. Jose Yap, who was also proclaimed winner in the province's second congressional district fight.

The Comelec junked the petition of the lawyers of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., to defer the proclamation, saying "there was no pre-proclamation controversy."

Final results of the provincial canvassing of votes for the gubernatorial post showed Yap led Cojuangco Jr. by more than 20,000 votes.

The elder Yap is set to be proclaimed as congressman of the second district, a post he had held before he became governor.

Dato Arroyo, the younger of President Macapagal-Arroyo's two sons, has been proclaimed the winner in the congressional seat for the first district of Camarines Sur, having won at least 70 percent of the total votes cast.

Also proclaimed were Arnulfo Fuentebella (3rd district) and Felix Alfelor Jr. (4th district).

The proclamation of the winner in the second district has been delayed because of protests over the tabulation in Naga City.

Official results in majority of the 10-town second district showed incumbent Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte (Kampi) by a wide margin over opponent Sulpicio Roco Jr.

Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, whose votes were thrice that of his opponent, Jojo Villafuerte, at 36,000 in the Namfrel count, said he was exasperated at the slowness of the tabulation of results from the 27 barangays of Naga.

Robredo said questions raised by lawyers of Kampi were intended to delay his proclamation. *Reports from Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao; Russell Arador and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Gabriel Cardinoza, Delmar Cariño, Cristina Arzadon, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Juan Escandor Jr., Bobby Labalan, and Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Torched school to be named after teacher

From page A1

National Police "stern and strict orders" to solve one of the most horrifying election-related violence in the just concluded elections.

"I want speedy justice," a stern-looking Ms Arroyo told PNP officials when she visited Camp Crame earlier yesterday.

She ordered PNP Director General Oscar Calderon, who also went to Batangas, to immediately file charges against those responsible.

Cops are suspects

Masked and armed men—believed to be members of the PNP Special Operations Group in Batangas and who were identified with reelectionist Mayor Hernando Villena—fired guns and set fire to the school before dawn last Tuesday just after the canvassing of the votes ended. Banaag and Ramos died in the fire.

Calderon said murder charges would be filed on Monday against Chief Insp. Robert Marinda, head of the RSOG team in Batangas, and his deputy, Senior Police Officer 2 William Relos and three other RSOG members who have yet to be identified and arrested.

Calderon told reporters that Villena, who lost in his reelection bid, was considered a suspect for being the possible mastermind.

He said the Calabarzon police chief and his deputy have been relieved and are under investigation for administrative lapses and command responsibility.

The President, who came here to attend the necrological services for Banaag, gave an undetermined amount of cash to the families of Banaag and Ramos.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, who joined the President here, said Banaag's family received close to P600,000 in insurance benefits and financial assistance from the education and social welfare departments and the Government Service Insurance System.

GSIS benefits

During the necrological services, a GSIS official gave the Banaag family about P262,000 representing the partial payment for Banaag's life insurance and survivorship benefits. He said Banaag's family would also receive a monthly pension of P4,100.

Lapus gave P200,000 as life insurance, P50,000 from the central DepEd and P20,000 from the DepEd regional office. Cabral also gave an unspecified amount as her department's assistance.

Trapped

According to the school's principal, Francia Ogsimer, Banaag and Ramos apparently took cover inside a small toilet in one of the classrooms when they heard the gunshots. They were trapped and could not get out when seven adjoining classrooms erupted in a ball of fire.

A teary-eyed Ms Arroyo arrived at the school hand-in-hand with Ogsimer to look at the burnt-out classrooms. She gave orders to Calderon, Lapus, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and military officers to help rebuild the school. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is from Batangas, was with the President.

The President then went to a nearby chapel where a lone wreath of white orchids from her stood beside a white coffin bearing the remains of Banaag.

She condoled with Banaag's husband Galileo and their children Bernadette, Michelle and Galileo Jr., as well as the husband and nine children of Ramos.

"Teacher Nellie is a big loss to the department," Lapus said in his message during the necrological services.

Teacher for 22 years

He announced that the damaged classrooms would be rebuilt and the entire school renamed the Nellie Banaag School in honor of the slain teacher.

Calderon said Marinda and Relos would be charged on Monday on the strength of evidence provided by witnesses who identified them as the ones who threw gasoline on the school premises, pointed guns at them and set fire to the classrooms.

Evidence still weak

He said three other RSOG members have yet to be identified and arrested because they were wearing masks which hid their identities.

Calderon said police has not ruled out the possible involvement of communist New People's Army rebels although it appeared the crime was the result of political rivalries.

He said investigators were looking for the mastermind.

"At this time everyone has their suspicions, but I would say that the evidence we have is still weak," Calderon said.

He said Villena, who has been asked not to leave the province, was definitely a suspect but has yet to be invited for questioning.

'Failure of election'

Calderon said the attack was apparently meant to prompt a declaration of failure of election in the areas where Villena was losing.

"The scenario was to have a failure of election but it did not stop the counting. The winners were proclaimed," he said.

In Camp Crame, Director Geary Barias, chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management (DIDM), said five police officers from the Calabarzon region have been relieved for their alleged involvement in the burning of the school.

Aside from Relos and Marinda, Supt. James Brilliantes, chief of the PNP Region 4-A Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG); Taysan, Batangas chief of police Chief Insp. Elpidio Ramirez; his deputy Insp. Ruel dela Cruz were all relieved effective yesterday, Barias said.

Barias said Brilliantes was relieved because of the involvement of his men in the incident and to make sure there would be no interference in the investigation. Brilliantes has already gone on a 30-day leave starting last Thursday.

Suspects in Camp Crame

Ramirez, Dela Cruz, Marinda and Relos were disarmed and transferred to Camp Crame yesterday. They are now under the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

According to Barias, Ramirez and Dela Cruz would be investigated for possible administrative lapses which allowed the burning of the school to happen.

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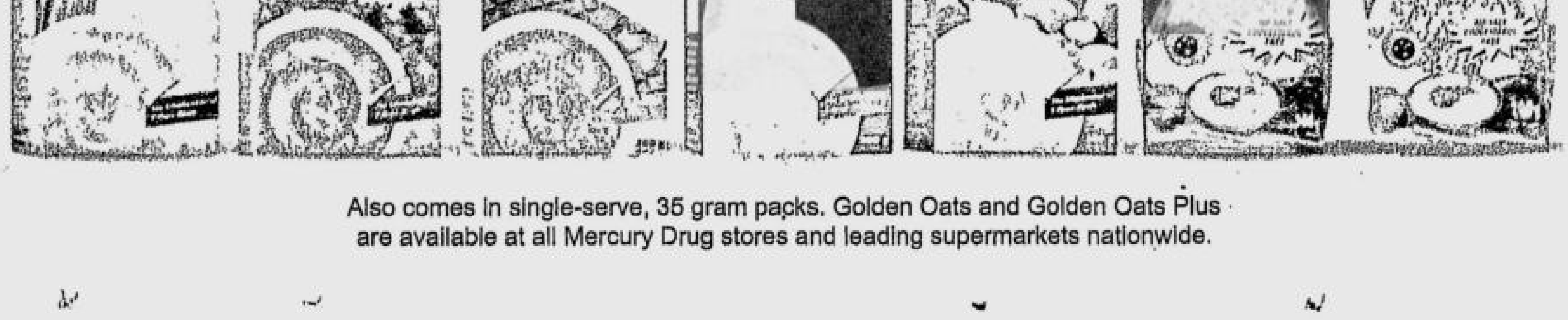
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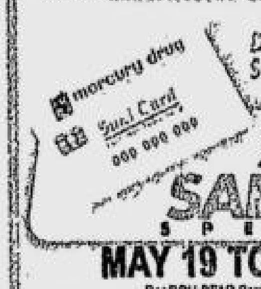
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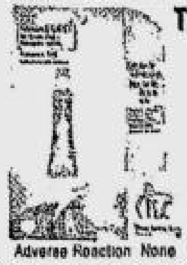

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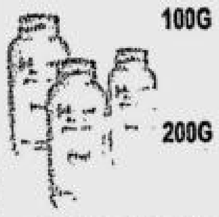

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Palace returns SC nomination to JBC

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG HAS RETURNED the nomination of Sandiganbayan justice Gregory Santos Ong to the vacancy in the Supreme Court to the Judicial and Bar Council, saying it was now up to the powerful 8-member screening body to clarify whether he is qualified to sit in the 15-member tribunal.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the JBC should iron out the kinks on the citizenship of Ong, who is said to be a naturalized Filipino born of Chinese parents. The 1987 Constitution says only natural born Filipino citizens may be appointed to the SC and colleagiate courts.

"We just (have to) wait for the announcement coming from the JBC because the chairman of the JBC is the Supreme Court (Chief Justice Reynato Puno). So the ball is with them. I cannot make any other comment," Ermita told reporters in an interview in Taysan, Batangas where he accompanied President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Ermita said Ong's appointment was not withdrawn.

"It's still there except that validation on the issue (of his citizenship) is being done by the JBC," Ermita said.

Asked if it meant Ong's appointment would be reissued, Ermita said: "Let's wait for the result because isn't it that the JBC chair is the chief justice?."

Malacañang recalled the appointment of Ong on Wednesday night after Associate Justice Renato Corona was reportedly dispatched by the SC to inform the President about the "problem" in his citizenship. It was Ermita who announced to media on Wednesday afternoon that the President had appointed Ong.

Informed sources in the judiciary told the INQUIRER earlier that law groups were poised to file a case in the high court questioning Ong's appointment on account of his citizenship and SC justices served notice they will not attend Ong's oath-taking because of the possibility of a case being lodged before the tribunal.

The sources said Ermita retrieved the papers from Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, JBC consultant.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had said that Ong's appointment was held in abeyance until his citizenship is resolved. He said the JBC should clarify the matter.

Danding to sell SMC shares to SMC Retirement Fund

By Volt Contreras and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BUSINESSMAN EDUARDO COJUANGCO Jr. says he intends to sell about P6 billion worth of disputed San Miguel Corp. shares to the SMC Retirement Fund.

Cojuangco yesterday revealed to the Sandiganbayan the prospective buyer of the SMC shares a week after the antigraft court allowed him to dispose of the shares believed to have been illegally acquired during the Marcos dictatorship.

His disclosure, made through a four-page manifestation yesterday, was in compliance with one of the conditions set by the Sandiganbayan requiring him to identify the buyer of the shares prior to the sale.

Yesterday, a total of 56.68 million Class B SMC shares valued at P4.82 billion were traded at the stock market. The shares were sold through a cross sale at P85 per share.

Company officials however declined to comment whether the traded shares were sold by Cojuangco to the SMC Retirement Fund.

Last May 10, the Sandiganbayan's First Division court granted Cojuangco's motion to be allowed to sell 56,581,813 Class B shares of SMC in the name of 11 corporations that the latter owns.

Cojuangco, who is SMC chair, said proceeds of the sale would be used by several Cojuangco-owned companies to pay off their loans to the United Coconut Planters Bank and the Bank of Commerce.

Class B shares are those owned by Filipino and foreign investors.

The 56.58 million SMC shares represented 78 percent of the 73.3 million shares which Cojuangco had wanted to sell.

The shares were part of the 20-percent original block of SMC shares held by Cojuangco and 44 Cojuangco-owned companies which the government still claims on grounds that these were bought using the coco levy funds, a forced tax collected from coconut farmers from 1972 until 1982. Cojuangco was then the fund's administrator.

The court clarified, though, that giving Cojuangco the go-signal to sell was not tantamount to upholding his claim of ownership.

Should the government win in the 20-year-old dispute, the food and beverage tycoon will be held liable to the buyers of the shares, the court explained.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 19, 2007
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 18:23-28
Gospel: John 16:23-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my Name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

"I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

"When that day comes, you will ask in my Name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary

They arrive in Ephesus and Priscilla and Aquila hear Apollos preaching about Jesus and John's baptism in the synagogue. They bring him home and teach him more and in greater detail and depth. He goes on as a missionary and teaches Jesus as the Messiah among the Jews. The Spirit works where and as it wills, even without the Church knowing of it—and when peoples/persons cross and meet each other, they need to be taken home and shared the good news in greater depth.

Jesus assures us that we can ask for anything in his name and the Father will give it to us. Our joy will be full. The Father loves us because we love Jesus and believe in him. Jesus is leaving the world to go to the Father but we can come to the Father as Jesus did. What are we asking the Father for in Jesus' name—what do the Church, the world, and believers need now?

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Corrections

IN THE FIRST edition of the May 18 issue, the Eleksyon 2007 Comelec tally on the front page omitted inadvertently the names and ranks of, and the number of votes for six senatorial candidates. This resulted in inaccurate ranking and the erroneous inclusion of certain candidates in the Top 20.

The candidates whose names were omitted are Manuel Villar Jr. (in third place with 120,536 votes), Sonia Roco (in 14th place with 75,642 votes), Juan Miguel Zubiri (15th with 66,280 votes), Vicente Sotto III (17th with 61,483 votes), John Osmeña (18th with 54,527 votes) and Prospero Pichay Jr. (19th with 53,153 votes).

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the banner story—"No voting in Maguindanao"—misstated that the Liberal Party, as the dominant minority party, is entitled to the "sixth copy of the election returns and other official election documents." The LP is entitled to the fifth—not sixth—copy of the ERs. The sixth copy is given to the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections for the official quick count.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the Eleksyon 2007 tally on Page A23 erroneously stated the winner of the gubernatorial post in Ilocos Sur. Based on the final results of the Commission on Elections, the winner of the post is Deogracias Victor Savellano—not Efren Rafanan. Our apologies.

The tally also misstated the number of votes for Batangas congressional candidate Richard Recto. Recto got 19,458—not 194,458—votes.

In the final Comelec tally, Recto got 25,190 votes, losing to Mark Mendoza, who got 97,218 votes.

The tally also misstated the number of votes for another congressional candidate. Elenita Ermita-Buhain got 58,474 - not 584,474 - votes. Yesterday, Comelec proclaimed her representative of the first district of Batangas, after getting a total of 101,127 votes.

Ramon Lacbain III was erroneously declared winner of the congressional race in Zambales. His opponent, Maria Milagros Magsaysay, was the one proclaimed by Comelec as representative of the province's first district.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

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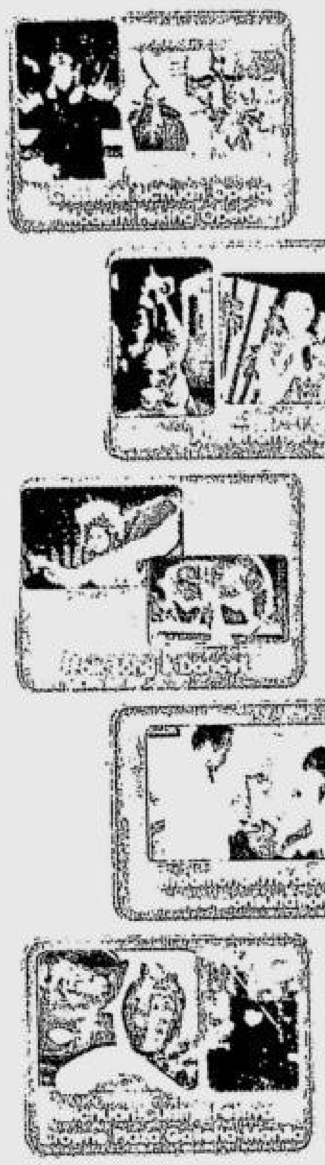

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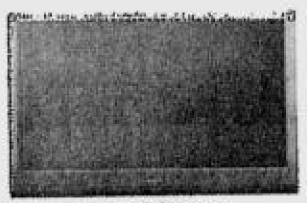

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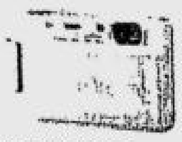

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Namfrel men barred from Maguindanao canvassing

From page A1

among the volunteers had received copies of the election returns (ERs) supposed to be given to Namfrel representatives monitoring the precincts where these were accomplished.

"They have no ERs. No one has seen an ER because they were not allowed to enter the Maguindanao capitol in Shariff Aguak," Go told the INQUIRER last night.

Unlike other areas where the tallies of votes cast are done inside the precinct after polling places close, "in Maguindanao there is what you call centralized tabulating," Go said.

"They bring all the ballot boxes to a centralized place, in this case the *capitolyo* in Shariff Aguak, where they tabulate everything," he said, adding:

"However, the volunteers are not allowed to enter the area where the tabulation is taking place. So I asked who was the person barring our volunteers. But the chapter coordinators said they will still ask them."

100 volunteers

Earlier yesterday in a press conference, Go said Namfrel had yet to hear from its volunteers in Maguindanao.

"We hope they are not in danger, but we cannot conclude [so]," he said, adding that while the Namfrel headquarters in Greenhills, San Juan, remained in touch with chapter officers in Maguindanao, "they are, in turn, unable to contact the volunteers assigned to monitor the canvassing [there]."

After the news conference, Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia estimated that about 100 volunteers in Maguindanao were unaccounted for.

He said Maguindanao had around 336,000 voters, although Go put the figure at 360,000 during the news conference.

Alvia explained his estimate this way: If there are 336,000 voters in Maguindanao and 200 voters in each precinct, there should be around 1,680 precincts in the province. If a volunteer is to get the [ERs] from an average of 10 precincts, "there would be around 160, 150 [volunteers], but as you can see, we have a shortage of volunteers, so [conservatively], there might be about 100."

Also earlier, Namfrel said it also had no communication with provincial officers and lawyers of the Commission on Elections in Maguindanao.

So far, Namfrel has received only 8.85 percent of tabulations from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which includes Maguindanao. Batch 13, the Namfrel update released at 1:47 p.m. yesterday, indicated there were no tabulations received at all from Maguindanao.

According to Go, the votes in Maguindanao are sufficiently significant to influence who will occupy the 11th and 12th slots in the senatorial race.

'Show proof'

Maguindanao has lately hogged the headlines with initial returns showing a Team Unity 12-0 sweep, in contrast to early results elsewhere showing a dominant Genuine Opposition. Local officials, residents, as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were quick to claim that no election was actually held in many parts of the province.

To this, as well as claims of ballot-switching and vote-padding during canvassing in other parts of Mindanao, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said: Show proof.

"Allegations like these should be supported by evidence," he said yesterday before presiding over the national canvassing, which has been in process at the Philippine International Convention Center since Wednesday.

"How can you say that voting in Maguindanao did not take place when you are in Manila? That statement is hearsay," Abalos also said.

Maguindanao provincial elections supervisor Lintang Bedol denied the claim no elections were held in the province on May 14.

Explaining the TU sweep, Bedol said the law now recognized the factor of leadership influence upon the electorate of local government units.

"There is now the 'Bailiwick Doctrine' in which the law recognizes the influence of political leadership to generate [block] voting," he said.

Abalos said he would not be surprised to see the results in Maguindanao giving the administration senatorial candidates a clean sweep.

"People should understand the culture of these tribal groups," he said. "These tribal groups really act as one. Why do we not question religious groups with block voting?"

Abalos said those alleging fraud "should come out with specifics, with concrete evidence."

No means to prosecute

Also at the Namfrel news conference, Go presented lawyers belonging to the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), who warned that if the volunteers had not yet surfaced as of yesterday, it may be possible that they also failed to secure the sixth copy of the ERs from their assigned precincts.

Namfrel, following its accreditation as citizens' arm in poll monitoring, has been allowed by the Comelec to obtain the sixth copy of all ERs. Figures from the ERs are relayed to Namfrel headquarters for tabulation in its unofficial canvass.

Lente is a nationwide group of legal experts, paralegals and law students who help the Namfrel and the PPCRV in monitoring the canvassing of votes.

Lente co-convenor Carlos Medina complained that the group's members had failed to secure the sixth copy of the ERs in many areas nationwide.

In the case of Maguindanao, since no single ER has been received, it will be difficult for Lente to prosecute parties responsible for any instance of election fraud because of lack of documentary evidence to present to court, he said.

Thus, Lente lawyers have had to monitor the canvass with no clue as to whether cheating was taking place, he added.

"The Lente canvass watchers were just looking at what was being written on documents used in the canvassing. There was no basis to know whether there was cheating since we ourselves do not know the real figures, not having ERs to base figures on," Medina said, adding:

"If you do not have the ER from the precinct, how do you check the authenticity of the canvass at the municipal level? And ultimately, the certificates of canvass at the provincial and national levels?"

National tally first

PPCRV national legal counsel Howard Calleja, on the other hand, expressed alarm over the reported practice of many canvassers of prioritizing the tabulation of the local elections and putting aside the outcome of the senatorial and party-list elections for later scrutiny.

"The law says the [tabulation] should be done together, and if ever they are done separately, the national tabulation should be done first," Calleja said.

Namfrel's Alvia warned that this practice would discourage many volunteers from completing their monitoring duty.

"In most cases, if the [volunteers are] more concerned with the local tally, they lose interest in the national tally if this is done later. That's why the national tally should be done ahead," he said.

Medina went further, warning that if volunteers lost interest in completing their monitoring duties, they would leave the canvassing—"and that's when the magic happens."

Medina also said Lente volunteers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, were barred from entering the room where the provincial canvassing was supposedly taking place.

"The board of canvassers denied us entry even if we presented our PPCRV identification, which serves as our authorization letter," he said.

Legarda to sue

Elsewhere, GO candidate Loren Legarda yesterday threatened action against persons found involved in election fraud across the country.

Legarda said she would pursue charges against those engaged in *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving) and other forms of cheating.

"It's not about being No. 1 or No. 12. It's about the votes getting credited to the candidates who were meant to receive them," said Legarda who, along with fellow GO candidate Francis Escudero, have been leading in Comelec and Namfrel counts.

Legarda made the statement in the wake of the alleged fraud in Maguindanao. She said she had also received reports of her votes getting shaved in Mountain Province.

"I've been a victim of cheating before, and I will not let the true will of the people be subverted yet again," she said.

Escudero backed calls for an investigation of irregularities in the May 14 elections, and dismissed claims that the apparent victory of GO candidates was proof that the political exercise was clean and honest.

"The argument advanced is facile and faulty, one that assigns an effect to the wrong cause. We are winning in spite of the fraud," Escudero said.

"The Comelec should proceed with its announced plans to look into possible cheating in Maguindanao," he said.

The GO had earlier called on the poll body to investigate the allegations made by Namfrel provincial chair Hadj Abdullah Dalidig that the number of registered voters in Maguindanao had increased from 275,572 to 396,772.

Not so fast

Administration congressmen, however, believe that the Comelec has no authority to probe the Maguindanao elections in the absence of a poll protest.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, both lawyers, said the Comelec should wait for a formal protest from an aggrieved party before conducting an inquiry.

"There's nothing strange or irregular with Team Unity's 12-0 win in Maguindanao with the absence of a political machinery of the Genuine Opposition in the province," Cerilles said.

"TU bets campaigned hard and their efforts were matched by the support given by the administration coalition's political machinery. Hence, we urge the Comelec to be objective in dealing with issues raised against TU, especially if these are not backed by any formal complaint," he said.

Javier said the vote-rigging claims of GO were mere allegations and "should not be dignified by the Comelec [with] an outright probe."

"Let the accusers file their poll protest so this can be resolved at the proper forum," he said.

Lanao del Sur

In Lanao del Sur, local election monitors believe that vote-rigging operations are ongoing.

According to Namfrel's Dalidig, this is indicated by the refusal of local Comelec officials to hand over to them the sixth copy of ERs from the precincts.

"There is the possibility that *dagdag-bawas* has now gone down to the level of the ER," Dalidig said.

A quick count is supposed to be a countervailing measure against a rigged official count. With the ERs not on hand, Namfrel is effectively defanged as a citizens' arm to monitor irregularity in the counting of votes.

Dalidig believes this is a deliberate strategy on the part of Comelec officials "to hide the mysteries that they are going to do."

It was Dalidig who, armed with figures derived from the ERs, blew the whistle on the alleged massive fraud committed by Comelec officials in Lanao del Sur to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

As of yesterday morning, 12 towns have completed the precinct-level canvass. But Namfrel is in possession of only five complete sets of ERs from five towns—Bumbaran, Malabang, Ditsaan Ramain, Bubong and Madamba.

Most of the Marawi ERs are also with Namfrel.

The release of ERs to Namfrel was done on a bulk basis, meaning, after the canvass of all the precincts in a town has been completed.

Although this arrangement does not sit well with Dalidig, he said he still allowed local Comelec officials the benefit of the doubt, as long as the ERs were delivered within the day the last precinct-level canvass was completed.

Failure of elections

Macabangkit Lanto, a congressional candidate of Ms Arroyo's party, Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi), yesterday asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in Picong, Lanao del Sur.

Lanto complained that in Picong, he scored zero, the members of the boards of election inspectors were fakes, and election returns were filled up in advance.

"The elections in the entire municipality of Picong is invalid, illegal and sham. In effect, there was no election to speak of," said Lanto, a lawyer, and a former justice undersecretary and ambassador to Egypt. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Edson C. Tandoc Jr. in Manila; Ryan D. Rosauro and Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Still 8-2-2 for GO in Comelec count

From page A1

12th slot with 786,415.

At the 13th slot was Ralph Recto (TU) with 711,727 votes

Prospero Pichay (TU)—among the top scorers in Ilocos Sur, Camiguin and Dinagat Island—who made made it to the 11th slot in early tabulation fell to 14th place with 668,414 votes.

Luis "Chavit" Singson (TU) topped the race in his home province of Ilocos Sur with 208,405 votes over Legarda's 142,788. But it was not enough to propel him into the Magic 12; he ranked 20th.

He scored badly in nearby La Union.

Up and down

Pichay scored well in Ilocos Sur, Siquijor, Camiguin and Dinagat, while Angara scored well in his home province of Aurora, as well as Quirino and Ifugao.

Included in the partial total, computed by the INQUIRER from the votes read by the Comelec commissioners sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), are votes from 16 provinces and three cities in the National Capital Region, as well as 55 countries for the overseas absentee voting.

Votes from Zambales, Marinduque, Mountain Province and Italy were also canvassed but these had not been included yet in the partial tally as the canvassers discovered discrepancies between a few entries in the certificates of canvass (COCs) and the Statement of Votes (SOVs).

In Zambales, for instance, the votes of Escudero and Alan Cayetano (GO) each reached more than 100,000 in the SOV. But in the COC, their votes were written as just over 20,000.

The discrepancies are to be solved by the tabulation committee.

Within 10 days

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday vowed to speed up the canvassing to attempt to finish it within 10 days, earlier than in the 2004 elections.

Canvassing will go on today and tomorrow, he said.

The interment of Commissioner Florentino Tuason's mother is scheduled on Sunday.

Abalos said that while the poll body condoled with Tuason, "we do not allow ourselves to be affected by personal problems."

But what's taking the Comelec so long to release the official results tabulated by the National Board of Canvassers?

Three days into the tabulation of the COCs, the Comelec has yet to come up with its own updated consolidated figures in the senatorial and party-list elections, leaving reporters to add up the results read out loud by the NBC.

At press time, the official tally sheet for the senatorial race issued by the Comelec showed COCs canvassed on Wednesday reflecting 1,897 voters in the overseas absentee voting.

For the party-list elections, the Comelec released COC results from abroad tallied on Thursday noon with only 1,383 votes consolidated.

(There is a huge tally board at the gate of the Philippine International Convention Center. But it only showed the running total of COCs from the overseas voting.)

To give the public the real picture of the Comelec canvassing of COCs, reporters are forced to make up for the lack of updated official results.

Computations

When the robe-clad commissioners take their seats on a rostrum at the PICC, signaling the start of the canvassing, reporters drop everything to jot down the results of the COCs.

Technology-savvy reporters use their computers equipped with number processors to input these figures for expeditious accounting and ranking of contending senatorial candidates and party-list groups.

But those comfortable with the old-fashioned way of computing rely on calculators, ledgers and, yes, their own mathematical prowess, if any.

But the "taxing work" of adding up results of the canvassed COCs ahead of the poll body is no longer new to veteran Comelec reporters, and even for representatives of senatorial candidates and party-list groups who covered the canvassing in the 2004 presidential election.

Real picture

On May 16, the first day of the canvassing, a media relations officer of a leading senatorial candidate arrived at the media center and offered reporters a tally sheet to use in encoding the results.

Another media officer of a known party-list group was more tech-savvy, lending his flash disk containing his group's own computation to reporters for cross-checking.

"If you want to see the real picture, you have to be inside the [PICC] and do the actual tallying," the media officer, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER.

ABS-CBN reporter Lynda Jumilla said the Comelec's education and information division (EID) used to help reporters add up the figures. However, these were still unaudited results by the Comelec and, therefore, could not be considered official.

Jumilla also covered the 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2004 elections.

She said this was the first time that she added up the results of the COCs on her own without the EID's help.

"They used to give us the running totals at a certain hour of the day. But those were still unaudited," she said. "This time, if we rely on the Comelec to give us totals, we'll get them tomorrow. By then, the story would be stale."

Jumilla said she tried to be as careful as she could by listening intently to the canvassers read out the COC results. She said she would jot these down in her notebook and the tally sheet provided by a media officer, and countercheck her figures with other reporters.

Slow pace

If she makes a mistake, "I'm willing to point it out in my next story," Jumilla said.

Comelec executive director Pio Jose Joson, who also chairs the canvassing supervisory committee, admitted that the poll body was slow in releasing the official results.

He explained that it was because the process included several layers of cross-checking.

From the tabulation, the results will be audited, encoded and audited again before they are released.

"We check, countercheck and double-check," Joson said in an interview.

He added that there was nothing wrong with the media and candidates' representatives coming up with their own tabulation.

"The figures are based on official COC results from the [NBC]," he said.

As for the media, Joson said they could even release their own computation as long as they mentioned that the figures were based on the NBC canvassing.

But what if there would be discrepancies between what has been released by the media and what would be issued by the Comelec?

"There could be discrepancies, but it would be minimal," a confident Joson said.

Toss of coin breaks tie for town council seat in Bontoc, Mt. Province

From page A1

winner.

Are you joking? Stunned poll watchers asked Mary Umaming, municipal election supervisor, after she made the proposal.

People at the crowded municipal hall, where the tabulation took place, burst into laughter when Umaming readied the P5 coin for flipping. This eased the tension among the candidates and their supporters.

"The people were not expecting that tossing a coin was an option to break the tie. The people were laughing and asking me 'Are you joking?' Umaming told the INQUIRER.

Tossing a coin to break a tie might sound odd for voters but Umaming said this method was included in the Commission on Elections guidelines.

Aside from flipping a coin, another option was drawing lots to break the tie, she said.

The two candidates who were vying for the last slot were Brian Bellang, chief of Barangay Alab here, and Benjamin Ngeteg, an incumbent municipal councilor of Bontoc.

Bellang, 37, a neophyte politician, chose heads and won.

"At first it was hard to explain the feeling when I won (through coin-tossing) but I was happy that I won," he said.

Gentleman's agreement

Bellang said the exercise was fair for him and his contender.

"We talked about it when the coin-flipping was proposed to us. We both agreed to give way to each other. He is a relative after all. It was a gentleman's agreement," he said.

But for residents here, election was a time when tossing money for vote-buying was not a laughing matter.

Fr. Marion Buyagawan, chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting-National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections in the Mt. Province, said vote-buying was so rampant, some residents called the May 14 elections the dirtiest in the province's history.

"We had no culture of vote-buying before. But because of too much poverty, it was done. In the past, we elected our leaders according to their wisdom and integrity ... Modern politics has changed some practices," Buyagawan lamented.

Forced to take money

In Barangay Maligcong here, a woman cried when she was forced to take money. "Why are you forcing me to take this money? Are you forcing me to sell my vote," she was overheard saying.

In Barangay Balugan in Sagada town, elders on Tuesday night talked about how to eliminate vote-buying after a teacher allegedly distributed money given by a mayoral candidate.

Stickers which carried a message: "We may be poor but we do not sell/buy votes" were posted at the Bontoc town center.

RP reelected to UN human rights council

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE TAKING THE Philippines' reelection to another three-year term at the United Nations' Human Rights Council (HRC) as a vindication for the country and a vote of confidence by the international community in the Philippines' commitment to human rights.

"This is a recognition by the member states of our sincere efforts to address issues of human rights, promoting conflict resolution through interfaith dialogue and our strong advocacy for the rights of migrant workers," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Ambassador Hilario Davide, the Permanent Representative to the UN, reported that the Philippines placed third in the election on Thursday for new council members. At least 16 countries vied for 14 new seats in the 47-member UNHRC.

In his report, Davide said the country obtained a total of 179 votes, 43 more than the votes it received when it was elected to a first term in 2006.

Davide said the reelection was a "vindication for the Philippines and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo" in the face of a campaign by non-government organizations to frustrate the country's reelection bid because of alleged rights abuses.

The HRC election was held against a backdrop of strong opposition from civil society groups to the candidacies of alleged rights violators like Belarus and Egypt.

The Hong Kong-based Asian Legal Resource Center and the Philippine-based Karapatan (Rights) were among those who lobbied UN members not to vote for the Philippines because of allegedly rampant human rights violations.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the Philippines' third-place finish demonstrated the international community's "continued confidence in the Philippines' commitment to uphold, protect and promote human rights."

It was "a clear vote of confidence for the Philippines and President Arroyo's efforts to move further forward the global agenda of upholding and protecting human rights," he said.

Bunye said the President was elated at the news and congratulated Davide and Romulo.

Romulo said the Philippines, in its reelection campaign, had made certain voluntary commitments, including a strengthened resolve to address politically motivated killings of journalists and activists, sustained leadership in promoting interfaith dialogue, continued advocacy of the rights of migrant workers and commitment to making the HRC a more efficient and effective organization.

The HRC, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, was created on March 15, 2006 to replace the discredited UN Commission on Human Rights, which was often criticized for the high-profile positions it gave to member states that did not guarantee the human rights of their own citizens.

Belarus and Egypt won election to the council on Thursday despite the appeal to UN member states by some 40 human rights organizations and a range of regional and international organizations not to elect them because of their allegedly "appalling human rights record and consistent failure to cooperate with the UN."

India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Qatar, Italy, the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, South Africa, Angola also won seats in the council.

Romulo earlier expressed confidence that the Philippines would be reelected because the Asian bloc in the UN was supporting its bid.

The Philippines has been criticized internationally, particularly by the United States and the European Union, for its worsening human rights record.

The UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, in a preliminary report to the HRC last March, accused the government of tolerating extrajudicial killings by the military.

Party-list leader fumes over Palace link

By Christian V. Esguerra

DR. ARSENIO ABALOS, top nominee of the Biyaheng Pinoy party-list, yesterday fumed over repeated accusations that his group was a front for the Arroyo administration.

Abalos was also angry over insinuations that his group was topping the Commission on Elections tally because he was the older brother of Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

"I'm a busy person. I have no time for accusations like that," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Critics were questioning Biyaheng Pinoy's ranking, Abalos said, simply because he was the brother of the Comelec chair.

"But nobody can dictate on me," he said. "I'm not even known in the Comelec. I've never been there."

The official Comelec tally on Thursday saw the elder Abalos' group topping the party-list race with 12,552 votes. In second place was the more popular Gabriela Women's Party with 12,431, followed by the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) with 9,055.

Abalos, a doctor of medicine, sounded upset when asked how his group managed to get such a huge number of votes.

"Don't ask me! I have no hold over the voters!" he said.

Later, he said Biyaheng Pinoy, a group claiming to represent tricycle drivers in Mandaluyong, had more than 100,000 members nationwide. Party-list organizations rely on their mass base to land seats in Congress.

Outgoing Akbayan Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales was the first to criticize Abalos by claiming to represent a tricycle drivers' organization when in fact, he was a doctor of medicine.

In a letter to the Comelec, Rosales questioned the propriety of the Comelec chair accrediting the party-list group of his own brother.

"(A)re you [saying] that it is of no importance ... that the brother of no less than the chair of the Comelec is a high-ranking leader of a party-list group you recently accredited?" she wrote.

Rosales also alleged that Biyaheng Pinoy was among at least 11 party-list groups fronting for Malacañang. She said the others are: Banat, Aksyon Sambayanan and Agbiag.

The groups denied the allegation. Based on the official Comelec tally, not one of the groups was faring well. Agbiag garnered only 530 votes, Aksa, 322, and Banat, 936 according to the Thursday results.

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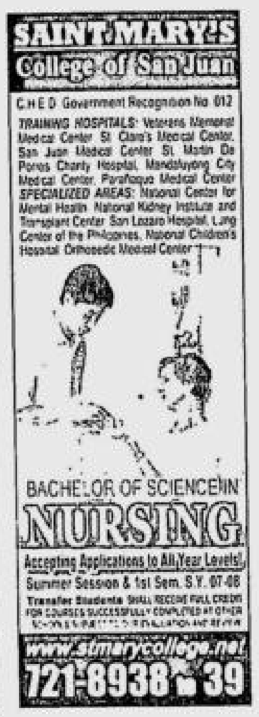

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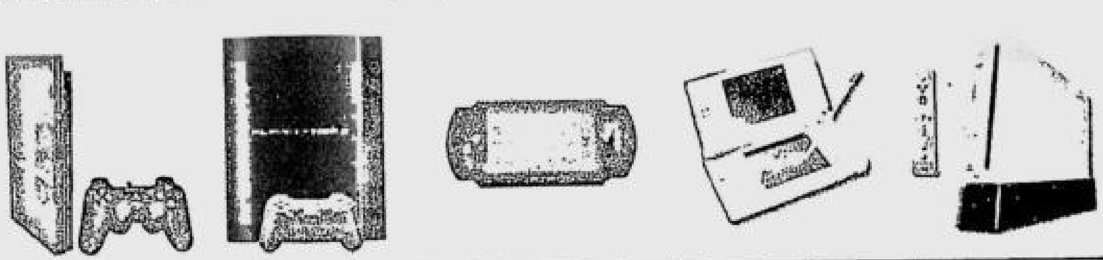

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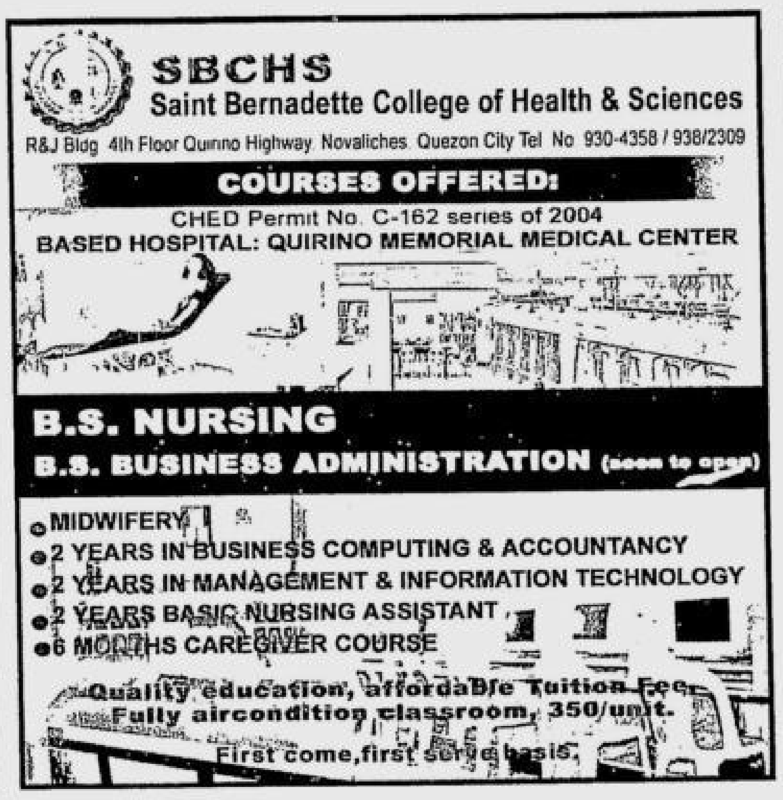
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1752, Series of 2007



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	LOCATION	TOTAL AREA	MINIMUM BID
A parcel of rawland classified for residential use with TCT No. T-124079	Lot 2 Block 21, Talibeach Resort, Brgy. Balaytique, Nasugbu, Batangas	1,500 sq. m.	P 7,875,000.00

General Guidelines:

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.
2. All proposals shall be submitted on or before May 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.
3. All bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment term. Only cash purchase shall be entitled to discounts.
4. Terms of Payment:
   - 4.1 For CASH SALE, the following discount rates apply:
     - 10%, spot cash
     - 6%, if paid in full within 30 days from signing of sales documents
     - 4%, if paid in full within 60 days from signing of sales documents
     - 2%, if paid in full within 90 days from signing of sales documents
   - 4.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable):
     - 20% minimum down payment
     - Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of ten (10) years at twelve (12%) interest per annum.
5. Bidding documents can be secured from the Asset Management and Disposition Group located at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City from **May 21 to 25, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).**
6. The opening of the sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the 4th Floor Lobby, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City on or before **May 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.**
7. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
8. The award of the sale covering the property shall be based on the **offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.**

For inquiries, please call Jonathan Briones at tel. no. 0917-8327366 or Nemia Mabulay at tel nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
Vice President
Asset Management & Disposition Group

(PDI–May 12 & 19, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pampanga Lending Center
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the properties listed below will be received at the Office of the Assistant Vice President, **Pampanga Lending Center, LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, 3rd Floor Freluz Bldg., Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga not later than **May 31, 2007 (Thursday) 10:00 AM** at which place, date and time said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
(SITE 1) Two (2) parcels of land (Lots 21 & 22 of Blk. 7, LRC Pcs-12678) situated in the Bo. of Dau, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga, containing an aggregate area of 1,935 sqms., registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516810-R & 516811-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including improvements erected thereon, re (224 sqm. 2-storey Hotel Bldg., 870 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg., 302 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg. No. 2, 73 sqm. restaurant bldg.)	P 6,835,504.00
(SITE 2) Three (3) parcels of land (Lots 34, 35 & 36 all of Blk. 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an aggregate area of 1,513 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516808-R, 516807-R & 516809-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 530 sqm. apartment-type lodging house.	P 4,075,494.00
(SITE 3) A parcel of land (Lots 16, Blk 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an area of 678 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT No. 516812-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 288 sqm. single storey commercial structure.	P 2,371,680.00

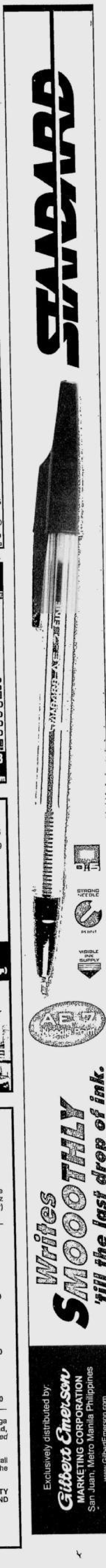
Bid forms, Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Vice President, Pampanga Lending Center, **LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, 3rd Floor, Freluz Building, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.** *Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-cited properties before entering their bid.*

The sale of the above-mentioned property/ies is at an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded property/ies without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) SVP CECILIA C. BORROMEO
(Chairman, HOCAD)

(PDI–May 17, 18 & 19, 2007)



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Bishop says JDV win means Cha-cha revival

FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF a Senate that is firmly in the hands of the opposition, Malacañang is now more compelled to dust off its aborted people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, in an interview with dzXL radio, said that the reelection of Speaker Jose de Venecia has made the revival of Charter change more imminent.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Panfilo Lacson said that Malacañang has no choice but to explore all avenues, including Charter change, to neutralize the Senate which has become even more anti-administration with the Genuine Opposition expected to dominate the recent polls

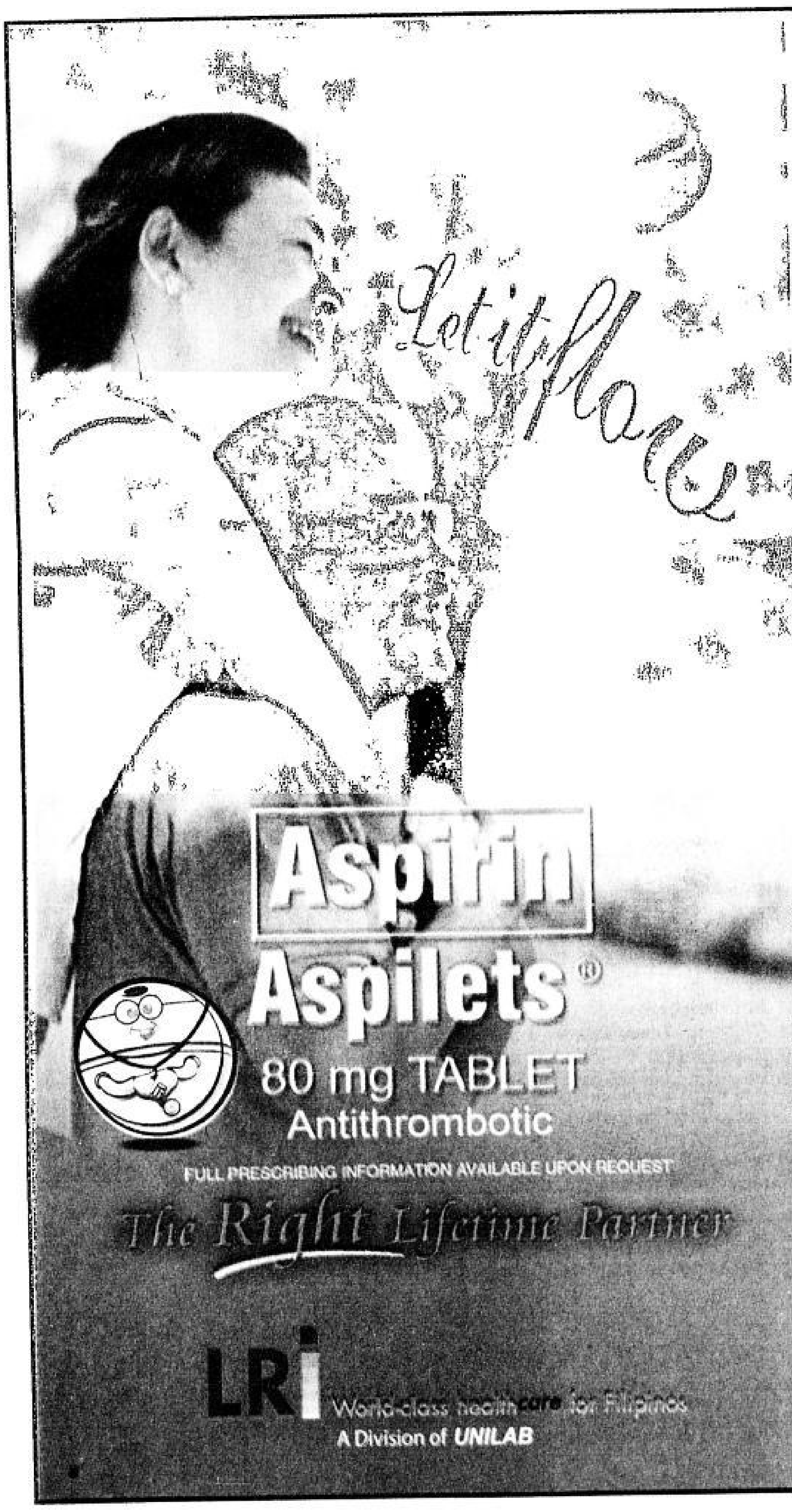
Malacañang had been relentless in pushing for Charter change up to the end of last year in an attempt as well as candid in wanting to abolish the Senate as one of main its goals.

"People's initiative is Malacañang's only option left to push for Charter change but even that is being repudiated by the people themselves," said Lacson in an interview. "In short, they are probably left with no option but to allow the President to step down on June 30, 2010, even if the thought would seem like a lifetime nightmare to all those who used their power to abuse our people.

Pimentel warned that pushing Charter change now would be an act of desperation for the administration.

"It would be most foolhardy if the President and her cohorts would try. They would really be tempting the fates," said Pimentel.

While it might be trailing badly in the senatorial race, the administration has taken comfort in the dominance of pro-Arroyo candidates in the congressional races that has made it more difficult for the opposition to mount an impeachment case at the House of Representatives. A stronger House majority will also give the administration a stronger base to resuscitate Charter change.



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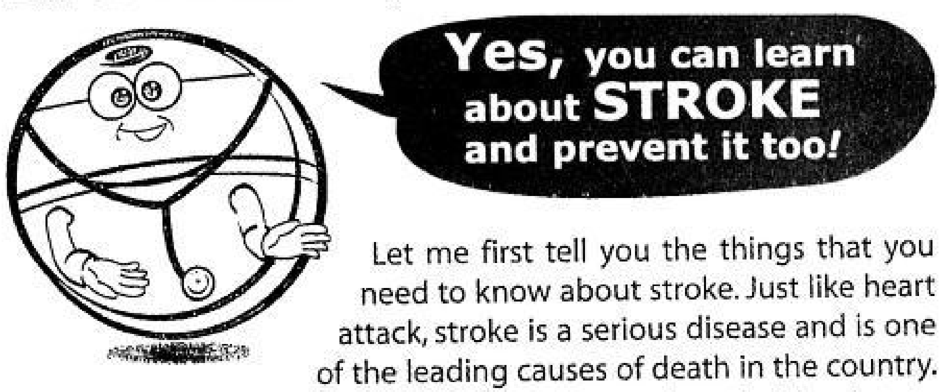
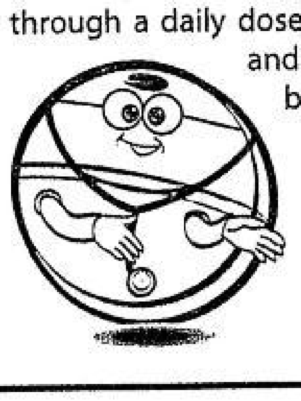

Yes, you can learn about STROKE and prevent it too!

Let me first tell you the things that you need to know about stroke. Just like heart attack, stroke is a serious disease and is one of the leading causes of death in the country. Others call it the "brain attack" for it happens when the blood stops flowing to the brain because of blood clot. You should also know that the damage of stroke in the brain can affect your entire body, resulting in mild to severe disabilities.[1] If you have hypertension or diabetes, your risk of getting stroke is much higher.

Now that you have learned what stroke is, I am sure that you found it really alarming. I tell you--you don't have to worry too much because it may be prevented if you only know what to do.

First, you have to find out if you are in danger of suffering a stroke. Only your doctor can carefully evaluate if you are at risk. If so, he will advise you to take an antihypertensive or anti diabetic drugs together with an indispensable preventive pill known as Aspilets. People who take this regard it as their **right lifetime partner** because with a lifetime of daily intake, this will help them avoid stroke incidents. Aspirin or **Aspilets** is used worldwide by people at risk because of its blood thinning effect which most Filipinos coin as ***"pampalabnaw ng dugo"***. It allows a smooth flow of blood to the entire system and prevents clotting which is the cause of stroke as I mentioned earlier. Health is also a matter of living a healthy lifestyle--that goes to say that you have to stay within the boundaries of healthy limits.[2]

These are the basic things that you should learn about stroke and how to prevent it. Know the signs and ask your doctor's advice on how to prevent it. Secure your life with a healthy flow of blood through a daily dose of Aspirin. Ask your Doctor its full benefits and why for so many years, so many people have been protected by Aspilets. Health is in the blood. Make sure to let it flow.



Sources:
1 American Heart Association: Warning Signs and Actions, page 7
2 American Heart Association: Aspirin, Heart Diseases, and Stroke, pages 3 to 7

Court tells ex-Customs chief to pay

THE COURT OF APpeals has directed former Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva to pay P800,000 in damages to another customs official arising from his refusal to recognize her position in the bureau that was then under dispute.

Villanueva was ordered to pay the amount consisting of moral damages, exemplary damages and attorney's fees for the anguish caused to Emma Rosqueta when he allowed another customs appointee to exercise the powers of her position and excluded her picture from the lineup of officials printed on memorabilia for the Bureau of Customs' 100th anniversary in 2002.

Rosqueta had contested the position of Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection and Monitoring with Gil Valera, who was appointed to the same position by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

Rosqueta had been able to secure an injunction against Valera's appointment to the post, but she said Villanueva did not obey the court order.

She said Villanueva issued memoranda allowing Valera to exercise the powers of her office, including participating in executive staff meetings and issuing tax credit certificates, and also excluded her picture from the souvenir program, magazine and billboard for the the BOC's centenary.

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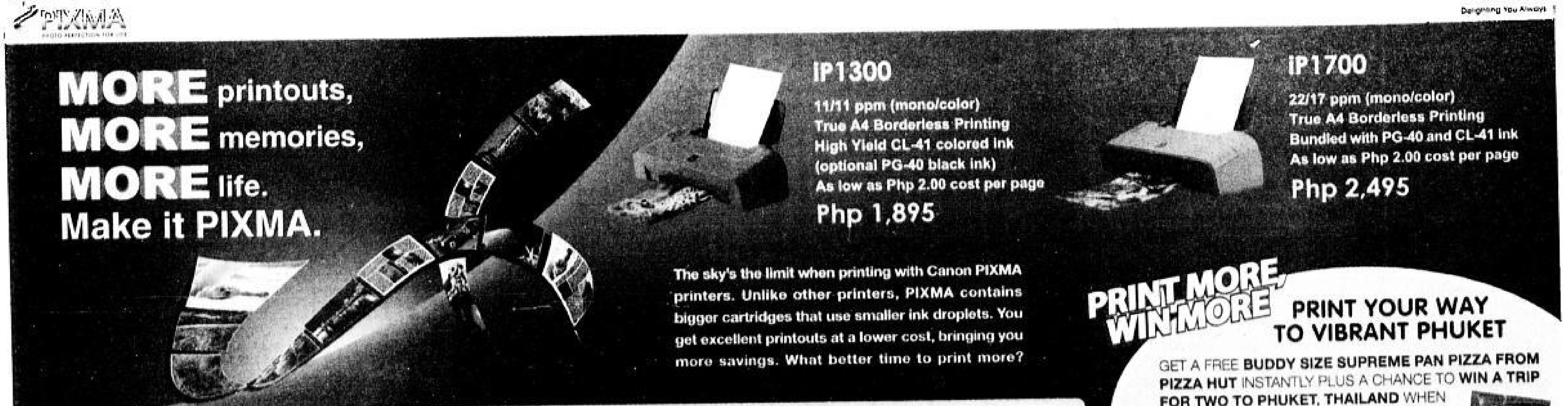

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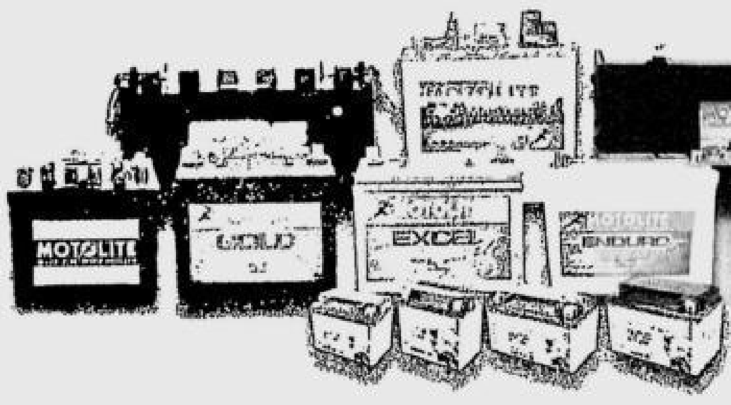

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The company has made it accessible to every Filipino through innovative distribution networks. With the "Motolite Express Hatid" service, the very first battery express of its kind, drivers anywhere in Metro Manila were within reach of a Motolite Battery.

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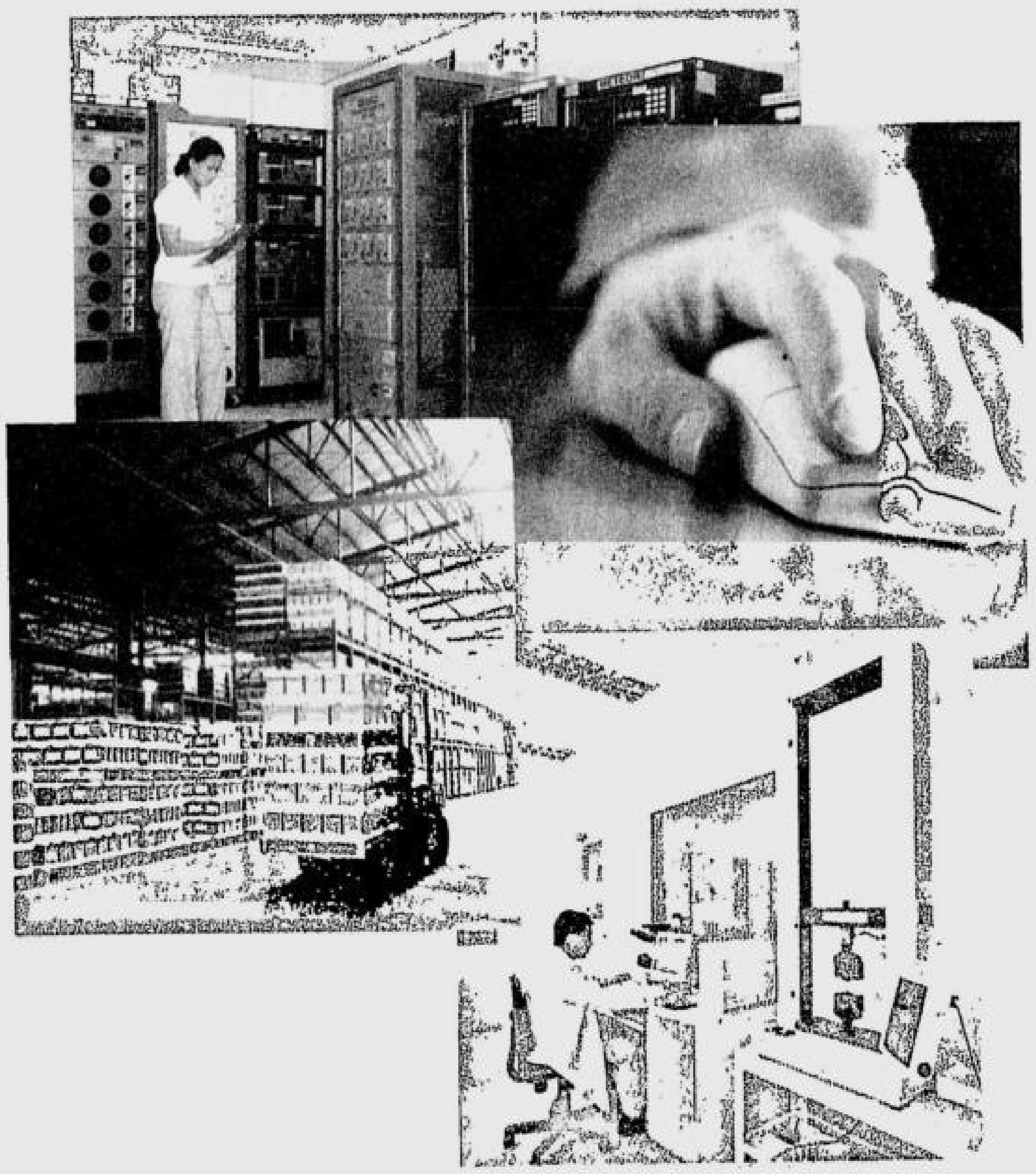
Since the industrial era, it became common knowledge that a company was never without its equipment. Get that technological edge through Ramcar's expertise in custom design, fabrication or replication of industrial equipment and tooling for a wide variety of applications. Its services include engineering expertise, design, and fabrication of plastic injection moulds, precision tools, and industrial and stainless steel equipment.

Hype Up through Business Enterprise Solutions
Knowledge never stagnates. It should be constantly updated and shared. Such is the key in Ramcar's ability to revolutionize businesses. Through strategic IT planning, business process re-engineering and outsourcing and ERP evaluation, Ramcar provides business enterprise solutions that are consistently integrated, completely relevant, and have great value for money. It also offers world-class and affordable integrated enterprise SAP courses in their Kaisa Academy, the only accredited SAP Academy in the Philippines.



Clean Up with Recycling and Environmental Protection
Ramcar's products are not only 'pangmatagalan', but also environmental friendly, thanks to its ISO 14001 certified battery recycler and smelter. This facility is the sole and largest in the Philippines and the first and second largest in Asia. The company is also working with global organizations in developing stricter and more comprehensive environmental standards.

Despite its success, Ramcar remains a socially responsible company that has taken the proactive role of molding the country and the world. Together with other corporate, socio-civic, and local government organizations, the company increases awareness on the harmful effects of indiscriminate disposal of used batteries. This is made sure through the Balik-Baterya initiative which seeks to collect from the end-user expired batteries for reprocessing into raw materials for new batteries. Other companies under the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) as well as other NGOs have followed Ramcar's lead by educating their internal organizations about the said issue.

It doesn't end there. Ramcar expands its market globally as it exports its products and services in the United States, Europe, Middle East and the rest of Asia. Expect such and more from a company that has always kept its drivers miles ahead from the rest for the past 88 years. These progressions are milestones not only for Ramcar, but for every Filipino.

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

THREE HOURS INTO ELECTION DAY, BENJAMIN Abalos faced reporters and gave his assessment of the mid-term polls. "There's an overall confusion due to the excitement," he said. "Many wanted to vote ahead. Maybe before 12 noon or by 1 p.m., the tension will ease off."

Let's think about that for a minute. The chairman of the Commission on Elections, the principal government official responsible for the clean and orderly conduct of fair elections, says the first hours of the mid-term vote were marked by "overall confusion." Then he adds that he expects maybe two more hours of disorderliness—and what, after all, does confusion mean in this context, but the lack of order in the conduct of the elections? If we do Abalos' math, that means that he fully expected five of the eight hours allotted for voting every three years, or well over 60 percent, to be confusing. By his own standards, therefore, the May 14 elections must be reckoned as confused, disorderly.

(Abalos himself had a hard time finding his voting precinct; he may have thought this would make him a more sympathetic public figure, but in reality he came off as impossibly clueless, his controversial agency's poster boy of mediocrity.)

The "overall confusion" statement also offered the public more proof—as though more proof were needed—that Abalos, though nominally and by constitutional requirement non-partisan, is actually a high official of the Arroyo administration. In the last couple of years, this administration's high officials have developed a trademark (and officious) response to any and all forms of criticism: It blames the victim. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is the administration's record-setter in this sense, blaming the much-loved Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell, to give only the most egregious example, for her own murder.

Consider Abalos' words again: "Many wanted to vote ahead"—as though sheer excess of civic zeal were something new (when in fact in every election Filipino voters troop to the polls as soon as the precincts open); as though it was the voters' fault why they couldn't find their precinct assignments or why the Comelec failed—utterly, shamelessly—to purge the voters' roll as it had promised. The assumption behind Abalos' remarkable forecast—that by noon or so "the tension will ease off"—has a similar blame-the-victim character. It is the voters, the citizens who are fighting for their right to vote, who are in Abalos' dark, counter-democratic mind the cause, the very source, of tension.

Sadly for our democratic project, the Abalos Comelec's shamelessness did not stop there, in mid-morning of election day. In fact, it did not even begin there.

When INQUIRER reporter Nikko Dizon broke the story about suspicious persons caught copying down the serial numbers and other identification marks of election forms in the printing press, Abalos belittled the breach, calling it a mere incident with no possible impact on the elections.

When an office of the Comelec burned down, under rather strange circumstances, the Abalos Comelec immediately called the damage inconsequential, of no moment to the mid-term elections. Yet reports persist, to this day, that much of the data in the purged voters' list was consumed in the fire.

When ABS-CBN's Ricky Carandang reported that official election returns—irresistibly blank, completely authentic and absolutely for sale to the highest bidder—had turned up in certain parts of Mindanao, the Abalos Comelec issued a blanket denial.

When extra copies of official election returns and other election documents surfaced, after the counting of votes had started, Abalos ordered a probe, but also denied any possibility that the extra copies may be misused in the actual canvass.

Yesterday, the commission sitting as National Board of Canvassers found that as much as 100,000 votes had been shaved off the total tally of opposition candidates Alan Cayetano and Chiz Escudero, from only one province. And on election day itself, 10 persons were reported killed in poll violence.

Yet Abalos has the gall to declare himself and a Comelec damaged by the Garci scandal completely vindicated. Shameless, utterly shameless.

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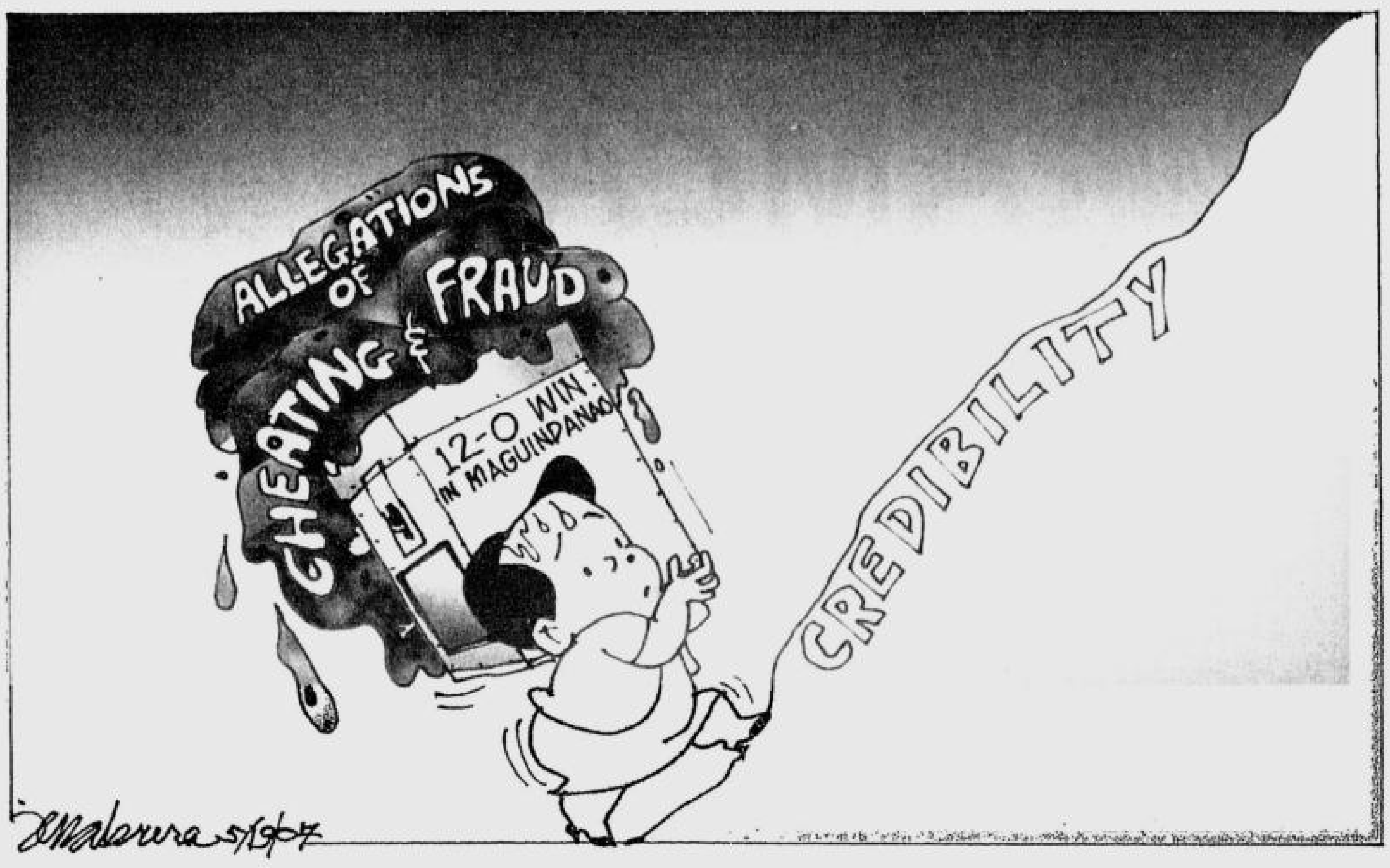

Waiting for the election results

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE OF THE SERIOUS AND CHRONIC PROBLEMS of our elections is the intolerable delay in determining their final results. It takes many endless days and sometimes even weeks to definitely know the winners in the presidential and senatorial polls. In the interim, the tail-enders or the rivals in a close race suffer much emotional agitation that may lead to more serious complications.

In the 2004 senatorial elections, the 12th position was closely contested between Sen. Rodolfo Blazon and Sen. Robert Barbers for some anxious and cantankerous days (or weeks?) before the question was finally resolved in favor of Biazon. Not long afterwards, the disappointed Barbers passed away, his fatal ailment possibly aggravated by the tension caused by the delay.

I know that comparison is odious, but I can't help observing that elections are faster than ours even in some of our Asian neighbors. Some years ago, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee from India explained how they could easily release the election results in his country within hours after the voting despite the size of their population and the wide expanse of their territory. The process seemed so simple and economical that I wondered why our government had not adopted it here. Instead, the Commission on Elections entered into that illegal purchase of those useless voting machines now rotting at tremendous public expense.

We cannot, of course, expect to equal the speedy conduct of elections in the advanced Western countries with more efficient technology than ours. The obvious example is the United States, where the presidential election results are announced as early as on the night of Election Day itself. The United States has more than 215 million voters distributed over its 50 states and Washington, D.C. Yet they are informed of the winners in their elections within hours of the closing of the voting booths.

Our territory and our 85 million population can be accommodated in California or Texas, but our 45 million registered voters are still waiting for the final results of the elections held last Monday.

The Philippines is an archipelago with more than 7,000 islands, some of them small but no less entitled to representation than the rest of the country. Many separate areas are not easily reached for lack of adequate means of communication and transportation. Delivery to the boards of canvassers of relevant election paraphernalia after the elections, like the voters' lists, election returns and other allied documents, as well as the ballot boxes and their contents, will involve considerable delay.

The results of the national elections cannot be officially determined unless all the votes are counted and accounted for in all the 308,222 precincts throughout the country or a passable percentage of that total number can safely predict the ultimate count.

But these physical difficulties are only part of the problem. The bigger fault is man-made and generally criminal—the flaws that have corrupted the legitimacy of Philippine elections. Since we became a republic in 1946, there has never been an election in this country that was not marked with the most infectious viruses that have weakened the body politic and its right to an honest and competent government.

Among the evils that have plagued our elections are vote-buying, snatching of ballot boxes, falsification of election returns, political dynasties, murder and kidnapping of political rivals, auctions of religious support, malversation of public funds for partisan purposes, persecution of government critics, disbandment of opposition rallies, harassment of complaining citizens, and unconstitutional checkpoints. Add these to the delay in revealing the mandate of the ballot, and the wickedness is complete.

Let me make this last comment about the worst electoral culprit of all—the Commission on Elections.

The open partiality of this constitutional agency for the present administration is undeniable and indefensible. This lawless attitude is best evidenced by its hypocritical hectoring, through an absurd misapplication of the rule of law, of Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who may have lost the elections because of its chicanery. There are other provable cases that debase its sworn mission to enforce and uphold the election laws without discrimination of preference.

We are entitled to a representative government led by public officials chosen by the responsible citizenry through the instrument of the ballot. It is tragic that we remain captive to the avarice of scoundrels who have used the right to vote for their selfish advancement rather than the strengthening of our democracy.

The abduction of Carol Castañeda Jimenez

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I HAD THOUGHT THAT JAY BURGOS' ABduction, in broad daylight at the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City, showed a military in its most arrogant display of power. But the abduction of Carol Castañeda Jimenez casts that in the shade—and the perpetrators were civilians. She, too, was abducted in broad daylight, inside the Tuscany, one of Makati's exclusive condominiums. In the Burgos case, the military is denying that soldiers did it, and we don't know where he is. In the Jimenez case, the perpetrator, Mark Jimenez (MJ), also known as Mario Crespo, Carol's long-time companion, not only admits doing it, but we know exactly where she is—but everyone seems helpless in the face of MJ's playing fast and loose with the law.

Only consider:

First, Judge Amelia Manalastas issued a Temporary Protection Order, upon the petition of Carol, ordering MJ to stay away from her—to vacate their common residence in Essensa; to desist from committing or threatening to commit acts of violence against her and others named; not to contact or communicate with her; to keep at least a 200-meter distance between him and her or their son; and to receive professional counseling for anger control, and management of alcohol and substance abuse. All this, with a warning: **"Violation of this order is punishable by law."** MJ refused to leave Essensa, and when she left the place because she wanted away from him, he refused to allow her to take her clothes, or her car.

Second, he caused the abduction of Carol (which is obviously an act of violence and expressly prohibited by Manalastas' order). This by his own admission in a television interview where he said he caused Carol to be detained at a drug rehabilitation facility (Silvercrest Foundation). Why? He was "saving" his "*misis.*"

Did he get a court order that gave him the authority to have her committed? No. All he had, according to Carol's sister Rose Flaminiano in her petition for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus against MJ, was an Application for Voluntary Confinement which he signed as Carol's husband. This, according to Rose, he has no right to do, first because he is not Carol's husband, and second because the Temporary Protection Order forbidding him to harass Carol is still in effect. This application, according to Rose, was given a first endorsement by some lawyer in the Dangerous Drugs Board without the required doctor's certificate or even the consent or knowledge of the head of the legal division.

Third, on the same day that Carol was abducted, Judge Lorifel Pahinma issued an order requiring "the SWAT Team and/or any barangay members or officials ... to immediately rescue Carol at Silvercrest Foundation. My information is that two SWAT Teams were deployed—but it seems these elite teams were stumped by the locked gate of Silvercrest. They did not want to break it down. Carol remains unrescued.

Before we go to the last example of the ways in which MJ seems to have thumbed his nose at officers of the law and the courts, a question should be answered: how could Carol have been abducted from the Tuscany, without its security guards putting up a fight? The question was posed to the security office by Lita Limlingan, Carol's sister (she and Rose were with Carol when the abduction took place), who is a resident of Tuscany, and whose cries for help were ignored by the security guard, even as Carol was being dragged from the elevator, kicking and screaming.

The answer given by the security guards: they had been notified that an altercation might take place, but not to interfere, because it would involve a drug addict who might be resisting attempts to apprehend her and bring her to a rehab clinic. Who notified them? Ted Awad, a Lebanese-American who is head of the homeowners' association of the Tuscany. What does Awad have to do with the whole thing? Well, he is supposed to be the stepfather of Diana Crespo, who is part-owner of Silvercrest Foundation, and who is allegedly the niece of MJ, and who is also a resident of Tuscany.

But we save the best for the last. MJ has presented to the court a "Petition for Commitment of Insane Person"—namely, Carol. There is no medical certification to this effect, it seems to be all MJ's diagnosis. He claims that her mental health was adversely affected by the vilification and malice against him contained in the writings of the likes of Babe Romualdez, Max Soliven, Marichu Villanueva, Juliet Labog, Isagani Cruz, Letty Magsanoc, not to mention Malou Mangahas. It wasn't only Carol that was affected by these "victimizers" and "mean-streaked persons," but his children too—one stole billions of pesos from him, another became an alcoholic, a third is under mental rehabilitation—and yes, MJ himself. But apparently it was only Carol that suffered "irreparable harm," and she has to be considered "legally insane"—else why did she ask for a temporary and permanent protection order against him?

According to Rose and lawyer Lorna Kapunan, there is real danger that Carol may die if she is not given her medication, which she needs to prevent epilepsy-like seizures caused by lack of oxygen in her brain, caused by stress. It is this medication that MJ considers to be the "drugs" that she is addicted to.

Who is insane?

Business names floated for 2010

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CANVASSING OF VOTES IN LAST MONDAY's elections is not even halfway in some areas, but already speculations are building up about the presidential race in 2010. Media noted how Sen. Mar Roxas, who was not up for reelection, resurrected his "Mr. Palengke" ad on TV during the campaign period. Many people saw it as a way to remind voters he's very much around. Then too, a trial balloon was floated by the opposition about a Jinggoy Estrada presidency, while Mayor Jojo Binay, euphoric over his landslide victory over Lito Lapid, hinted that it's also very much in his mind. My reaction to these two personalities' ambition is, heaven help us!

Then there's Vice President Noli de Castro, who is one heartbeat away from the presidency. Then, of course, Malacañang has never been away from the mind of Loren Legarda and Manuel Villar, who are now expected to fight each other for the Senate presidency and Panfilo Lacson. Media recently also threw in incoming neophyte senator Francis Escudero, owing to the huge possibility he would outrace Legarda to the top slot.

* * *

But what has not been reported is that some business people have lately been eyeing the presidency for one of their own. During a dinner at the residence of guru Washington Sycip a few months back, some business executives openly discussed the prospect of fielding Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and observers noted that he merely kept smiling coyly. Other businessmen are mulling over the idea of fielding PLDT's top honcho Manny Pangilinan.

The business sector is obviously fed up with the politicians and is tempted to capture the presidency for itself, but that's a long shot, given the decades-old dominance of politicos in the political arena. The easier way could be through the parliamentary system, a la Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand, but that means the executives would themselves have to push for Charter change, which they resisted fiercely last year. Are they ready to change their stand now?

* * *

Speaking of business, one can't help but realize that there are actually two Philippines. One is that of business, which is making headway and attracting foreign investments due to bold economic reforms; the other is that of politics, which remains chaotic and highly divisive. South Korea's Hanjin firm, a huge ship-manufacturing conglomerate, has located at Subic with an investment of $1 billion and a target of 10,000 jobs. Three weeks ago, Texas Instruments, the world's biggest manufacturer of micro-chips, announced its decision to construct a new $1-billion facility at Clark Freeport, in addition to its Baguio plant. The other day JP Morgan, one of the world's largest financial services firms, returned to RP after an absence of 10 years.

Sadly, many of last Monday's voters couldn't appreciate all the progress on the economic front, as the political RP remains strife-torn. It's clear that political reforms are badly needed so that economic progress could be sustained.

* * *

Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas and a number of his priests in the diocese complained about the massive vote-buying and the deterioration of politics in the province. Few would dispute their allegations, but as they say, every time an accusing finger points at someone, three other fingers point back to the accuser. It all boils down to eroded values, but here church leaders have to assume a large part of the blame as many of them are so busy playing politics and trying to oust the President even. In many places, they failed to inculcate the right values among the people. Many voters no longer regard accepting tainted money or cheating in elections as violations of the 7th commandment.

* * *

Is it possible for Maguindanao, one of the provinces in Muslim Mindanao, to have delivered 12-0 in favor of Team Unity? I ran into the former president of PCCI, Donald Dee, and he said, absolutely. Dee said he goes there regularly as he has a business there, and he sees how people there operate politically. The decision to back up TU was apparently made at a meeting last March, where the political leaders decided on the line-up they would back up; that decision was passed on to their followers, including a straight vote for TU. It's a feudal setup, but that's the reality there. It's also relevant to note that in the 27 municipalities there were no opposition candidates, hence, as a Liberal Party official said, the opposition had no watchers.

* * *

I recall talking to former Sen. John Osmeña a few elections ago, when he was still in the Senate, about the declaration at that time by Comelec of a "failure of elections" in the Lanao area. This time the poll body again nullified the elections in some places there, owing to some irregularities. Osmeña noted that such "failure" would come with regularity every election and he opined--and I completely agreed with him--that some local leaders there were already using it as a fund-raising activity among senatorial candidates who are on the 9th to the 15th place, usually separated only by slim margins. The manipulators decide who go into the Magic 12 and who are dropped.

* * *

At the lunch hosted yesterday by Speaker Jose de Venecia for outgoing Chinese Ambassador Li JinJun, I asked UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham about the recent parliamentary elections in Scotland. He noted that some 100,000 votes were rendered invalid by the election body there, owing to some technical trouble with the automated machines; but he pointed out that those invalid votes were merely cast aside and the counting was finished. I think Comelec ought to copy the Scottish model and not to order new elections every time, so that it breaks the local leaders' predilection for using "failed elections" as a cottage industry. If the people of Lanao are threatened with being disenfranchised, maybe they will shape up and prevent the "regular" irregularity.

Visit to Batanes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS A WEEK BEFORE ELECTIONS. I HAD an invitation to join Kiko and Sharon on their caravan, and I had deadlines to meet. But when photographer Mandy Navasero called to say she was able to wangle a trip to Batanes for me to join her "Photo Safari," there was no question about my joining them.

Why would I drop everything to see Batanes? The other members of our group of 17, during our self-introductions on our first night, said it all for me: "I vowed to myself that I would see Batanes before I die."

With "been there, done that" becoming the mantra of the world-weary traveler, or those with aspirations to join the club, Batanes remains the one domestic destination worthy of bragging rights. Though there are now regular flights to the islands, and tourists are no longer such a rare sight, Batanes remains exotic and largely unknown to the public. I had read earlier accounts of trips other travelers had taken to Batanes, and so I imagined rugged seascapes and dramatic views of mountainsides set off against pounding surf. I also knew of the traditional stone-and-cogon Ivatan house, built low to the ground to withstand the gusty winds.

These I saw in spades, until, in fact, the scenic views and windy hillsides tended to blur into one another. What I wasn't ready for was how nice the people were, how they embodied the vaunted Filipino trait of hospitality to extremes, and how their lifestyle contrasted sharply with the way we live and relate with each other in the city.

Though nature's bounty and relative isolation have made Batanes one of the most intriguing and desirable adventure destinations in the country, it's the people who made one feel truly welcome and comfortable.

* * *

IN SABTANG Island, reachable through a 45-minute boat crossing from the port of Ivana in the main island of Batan, we visit a village noted for its traditional Ivatan houses lining both sides of a narrow street. Prodded by us women to look for a rest stop, our guide Roger calls out "Dios!" (the traditional Ivatan greeting) in front of one house and manages to obtain permission to use their toilet, enclosed in roofless shed.

As we enter to queue for restroom privileges, a small boy perched atop a native chair greets each of us with a cheery and curious "hello!" Off to one side of the yard, a woman is frying up a large batch of fish, and when we ask why she is cooking so much, she explains that they are preparing for the visit of a congressman and his party. Mandy, who has made many trips to the island, approaches her, saying: "That looks delicious, may I taste some?" Without question, the busy cook hands her a piece of fried fish as well as a chunk of gabi, which, before rice was brought in with the advent of modern transport, was the traditional Batanes staple.

As we are about to depart on our jeep, the women of the household we visited hand our guide packets of food wrapped in banana leaves: more of the fried fish and gabi and even some bananas.

We marvel not just at their generosity, but also at their trusting nature. Would we do the same when we got home to the city, we wondered. Should a group of strangers come knocking on our doors asking to use our bathroom, then wander into the kitchen asking to have a taste of the lunch we were cooking, would we treat them with the same brand of hospitality? All of us urbanites shook our heads, laughing.

* * *

WE were in for even more traditional Batanes hospitality the next day, as we paid a visit to the Abad homestead in Tukon, a barrio up high in the hills outside Basco.

The views that greeted us as we drove up the winding roads seemed straight out of postcards—from Ireland or Scotland or even Norway, as some of us imagined them. "Fundacion Abad," the name given to the home-turned-museum of the late artist Pacita Abad, stood off by itself on a promontory overlooking a windswept landscape. Down the road, surrounded by lovely gardens and a wooden pavilion, was the home of Butch and Dina Abad, while in the center of the property was a stone rotunda on which two sculpted figures were seated, likenesses of Butch and Pacita's late parents.

As we toured the Abad home—a home inspired by the traditional Ivatan stone house but blending as well with warm Mediterranean colors and cozy touches of the English cottage style—Dina Abad enters, greeting us with warm hugs and huge smiles. Their home, she exclaims, is a "labor of love," while the trellis out in front as well as the charming wooden pavilion is "the result of Butch's frustrations after Hyatt 10."

Butch Abad, if you must know, is the former education secretary who with other Cabinet colleagues resigned as a result of the "Hello Garci" controversy. His wife Dina took over Butch's congressional seat after he joined the Arroyo Cabinet but for many reasons had decided not to run for a second term. The couple are also old friends from way back, so our meeting Dina was like a small reunion in itself.

* * *

OVER LUNCH that included coconut crabs and vegetables, we talk politics, Ivatan culture, Batanes lifestyles and homemaking tips. We're even taken on a tour of the rest of the house, including the children's bedrooms downstairs and the backyard, planted to colorful blooms and hedges and overlooking a dramatic view of mountains and sea.

"Where can you buy a view like this?" I ask of no one in particular. Dina smiles and says that if she would have her way, and if only her children didn't need their company, she and Butch would choose to stay in Batanes full-time.

Sitting on a bench with Dina, taking in the view and basking in the cool breeze, one knows what she means. Batanes is indeed a paradise, but it's the people as much as the sights that make it so.

Musharraf's minions of terror

WORLD VIEW

Pervez Hoodbhoy

AFTER HIS ILL-ADVISED DISMISSAL OF THE chief justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court ignited a firestorm of violent protests, President Pervez Musharraf may be banking on Islamic fanatics to create chaos in the nation's capital, Islamabad. Many suspect that an engineered bloodbath that leads to army intervention, and the declaration of a national emergency, could serve as a pretext to postpone the October 2007 elections. This could make way for Musharraf's dictatorial rule to continue into its eighth year—and, perhaps, well beyond.

This perverse strategy sounds almost unbelievable. Musharraf, whom President George W. Bush describes as his "buddy" and supports as an "enlightened moderate" version of Islam, wears the religious extremists' two close attempts on his life as a badge of honor. But his secret reliance upon the Taliban card—one that he has been accused of playing for years—increases as his authority weakens.

Signs of government-engineered chaos abound. In the heart of Islamabad, vigilante groups from a government-funded mosque, the Lal Masjid, roam the streets and bazaars, imposing Islamic morality and terrorizing citizens in full view of the police. Openly sympathetic to the Taliban and tribal militants fighting the Pakistan army, the two cleric brothers who head Lal Masjid, Maulana Abdul Aziz and Maulana Abdur Rashid Ghazi, have attracted a core of banned militant organizations around them. These include the Jaish-e-Muhammad, considered to be the pioneer of suicide bombings in the region.

The clerics openly defy the state. Since January 21, baton-wielding, burqa-clad students of the Jamia Hafsa, the woman's Islamic university located next to Lal Masjid, have forcibly occupied a government building, the Children's Library. In one of their many forays outside the seminary, this burqa brigade swooped upon a house, which it claimed was a brothel, and kidnapped three women and a baby.

Male students from Islamabad's many madrasas are even more active in terrorizing video shop owners, whom they accuse of spreading pornography. Newspapers have carried pictures of grand bonfires made with seized cassettes and CDs. Most video stores in Islamabad have now closed. Their owners duly repented after a fresh campaign on May 4 by militants blew up a dozen music and video stores, barbershops and a girl's school in the Northwest Frontier Province.

Astonishing patience has been shown by the Pakistani state, which on other occasions freely used air and artillery power to combat such challengers. The Lal Masjid clerics operate with impunity—no attempt has been made to cut off its electricity, gas, phone, or website—or even to shut down its illegal FM radio station. The chief negotiator appointed by Musharraf, Chaudhry Shujaat Husain, described the burqa brigade kidnappers as "our daughters," with whom negotiations would continue and against whom "no operation could be contemplated."

The clerics realize that the government wants to play ball. Their initial demand—the rebuilding of eight illegally constructed mosques that had been knocked down by Islamabad's civic administration—became a call for enforcement of Sharia law across Pakistan. In a radio broadcast on April 12, the clerics issued a threat: "There will be suicide blasts in the nook and cranny of the country. We have weapons, grenades, and we are expert in manufacturing bombs. We are not afraid of death."

The Lal Masjid head cleric, a former student of my university in Islamabad, added the following chilling message for our women students:

The government should abolish coeducation. Quaid-e-Azam University has become a brothel. Its female professors and students roam in objectionable dresses. I think I will have to send my daughters of Jamia Hafsa. They will have to hide themselves in hijab, otherwise they will be punished according to Islam …. Our female students have not issued the threat of throwing acid on the uncovered faces of women. However, such a threat could be used for creating the fear of Islam among sinful women. There is no harm in it. There are far more horrible punishments in the hereafter for such women.

Indeed, on May 7, a female teacher in the QAU history department was physically assaulted in her office by a bearded, Taliban-looking man who screamed that he had instructions from Allah.

What's next? As Islamabad heads the way of Pakistan's tribal towns, the next targets will be girls' schools, Internet cafés, bookshops, and stores selling Western clothing, followed by purveyors of toilet paper, tampons, underwear, mannequins, and other un-Islamic goods.

In a sense, the inevitable is coming to pass. Until a few years ago, Islamabad was a quiet, orderly, modern city no different from any other in Pakistan. Still earlier, it was largely the abode of Pakistan's hyper-elite and foreign diplomats. But the rapid transformation of its demography brought with it hundreds of mosques with multi-barreled audio cannons mounted on minarets, as well as scores of madrasas illegally constructed in what used to be public parks and green areas. Now, tens of thousands of their students with little prayer caps dutifully chant the Koran all day. In the evenings, the students roam in packs through the city's streets and bazaars, gaping at store windows and lustfully ogling bare-faced women.

The stage is being set for transforming Islamabad into a Taliban stronghold. When Musharraf exits—which may be sooner rather than later—he will leave a bitter legacy that will last for generations, all for a little more taste of power.

Project Syndicate

Pervez Hoodbhoy is professor of physics at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Still going strong

YOUNG BLOOD

Isabel Antonia P. Agoncillo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER HAS THE MOST COMMON OF names, Juan. When Papo (that's what he is to his family) turns 105 this June, his longevity will again dominate the lively conversations at his party, as it did when we celebrated his 100th birthday. However, there are other things about him that can inspire animated chat as much as his age.

The 89-year gap that separates him and me may hardly encourage much acquaintance. Still, I'm sure I know enough about Papo from all the stories I've heard about him from other members of the clan. As they say, what really matters is not so much how long one lives as how one has lived.

Juan Trinidad Pantaleon was born in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija on June 4, 1902—the fourth child of seven children—to a very poor family. To support his siblings through their schooling, Papo quit school and tilled a farm until each one of them finished high school. As a result, he got his high school diploma only after his youngest sibling got his. Meanwhile, he developed many skills and pursued several trades. Until he entered semi-retirement in his early 80s, he was a farmer, hat maker, barber, shoemaker and tailor all rolled into one. Papo was what my grandfather called the consummate craftsman, because he plied his trades with exceptional skill and with his large but careful, work-worn hands. Well-to-do men in the community went to him for hats in fashion (before World War II, I am told). Public officials and the rich sought him for the barber in him. My cousins and I marvel at stories of how Papo would begin making a sturdy and handsome pair of shoes at six in the morning, which the customer could then pick up, complete and ready to wear a mere 12 hours later.

He had a steady income throughout his active working years—although they flowed in slowly and in small amounts. That's why he labored twice as hard to sustain his family and send all his seven children to school. But he never refused to help relatives poorer than he was. Many were the times when relatives would stay in his house for months on end, enjoying his generosity. Because of his financial obligations, Papo was able to acquire only two small tracts of land in his entire life. Because he was completely honest in all his dealings and all his money was hard-earned, he would not be easily cheated out of it. A rich man once tried to take a property of his through shrewd legal means. Papo told all his children that he would defend his property with his life, and he made sure the rich man got the message. Papo was left in peaceful possession of the land.

At another time, Papo angered a burly, six-foot manager of an electric cooperative when he refused, with good reasons, to be a subscriber. Late one night, a drunken manager came up to Papo's house and threw stones at the door. Despite his medium frame, Papo came out of his house, a sharp shoemaking tool in hand, and dared the man to a fight. Neighbors intervened, and the sobered bully apologized publicly to Papo.

Any person who has lived as long as Papo cannot be a stranger to tragedy. Thrice his house was burned down (in the first two instances, without insurance), but every time, he would "rise from the ashes," so to speak, to rebuild it. He also lost a son to kidney failure, and according to my grandfather, it was the only time he saw Papo cry. Papo didn't shed a tear when his mother and his father, or even his wife, passed away. But when his son died in a most painful way, Papo sobbed like a child.

Until not too long ago, when Papo was much healthier, he immensely enjoyed his favorite pastimes: reading (with a magnifying glass) the newspaper, answering math quizzes, being driven around and out of town, walking about (on his own!), and answering the many letters he received from us (and from two of our disbelieving friends). He liked company, and all would have a good time with him because of his sense of humor and remarkable memory. He was a walking history book; he could entertain anyone with stories about his adopted town, San Jose and about people who lived in the area.

Papo's optimism never ceases to astound our family. At 97, he was thinking of having lens implanted in his eyes. He was hesitant about undergoing the procedure, but not for the reasons people would expect. Being the thrifty man he is, he asked the ophthalmologist in a serious tone if the eye implants would last at least 20 years. Why, one may wonder, would he ask such a question? He wanted to live to "104" in order to beat the record set by another man in town, who lived to 103. Now, after recovering from the second of his two bouts with pneumonia and again feeling very healthy, he is now looking to reach 115! Of course, he has the entire clan rooting for him.

Another 10 years seems attainable if he follows his own health advice. During his 100th birthday party, asked what advice he could give to those who wished to live as long as he, Papo brought the house down with his reply: "*Pagdating ninyo ng 80, huwag na kayong masyado kumain ng karne!* (When you reach 80, slow down on meat)!"

Papo has been given several awards—for longevity, citizenship, charity, etc.—by the Nueva Ecija High School of Cabanatuan City (where he graduated in 1928); the municipal government of San Jose, Nueva Ecija (his adopted town); and the Knights of Columbus. He keeps the award in a display case at his very ordinary house, along with many, many photos of his descendants. I'm sure that he has at least one picture of each of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren there. There, too, is a favorite photo of himself in the company of his son, and of a senator and a congresswoman. Alongside are other cherished pictures: of another son with a chief justice of the Supreme Court; of a granddaughter and her husband with a president of the Philippines; and of a grandson on a golf course with yet another president. For someone unspoiled by material things, these pictures are enough to warm the heart. Above his bed is a huge tarp that was used during his 100th birthday celebration and with these words: "Juan Trinidad Pantaleon—A Journey of a Hundred Years." The tarp says it all, I think.

Might Papo be the oldest living Filipino today? I don't know and I don't care. His longevity is not so much of a feat compared to the support and inspiration he has unselfishly and continuously given to his family. His entire life is one book of lessons on the value of hard work, humility, courage and integrity that we, his great-grandchildren, will draw from, as did our parents before us and their parents before them. I like to think that the reason our dear Papo has come to live so long is because any person who has dedicated so much of his life to serving others deserves some time to live for himself.

Isabel Antonia P. Agoncillo, 16, is an incoming junior at Paref Woodrose School.

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Strike the vote-sellers first

THE GREEKS THOUGHT THAT politics is the height of nobility. Perhaps they thought that one would be a martyr to have to uphold one's good intentions in the face of the evil hounding power.

But what happens to those who do not bend to the greed of petty fools who sell their votes? What happens to the electoral process that's supposed to put the candidates under public scrutiny? The process has become an arena for the rich to buy their way to power and more riches and has become a bidding war for votes. Who is to blame? More importantly, what is to be done?

Can we blame the poor for enjoying the one time they have—after every three years—the power over those who lord it over them the rest of the time? Can we blame the mother who constantly struggles to feed her kids if she sells something that is of little or no consequence to her anyway? Can we blame the politician, who despite his original good intentions has been corrupted by the system's flaws?

On further reflection, it would be best not to blame anyone. No one is totally to blame, yet no one is also innocent except, perhaps, the foreigners and the non-voting public. But what are we to do to fix this problem before the next elections? We cannot blame candidates because they are driven by "market forces."

In Iloilo, jeepney drivers are not punished for letting passengers on or off in non-designated loading or unloading areas; it is the passengers who force the drivers to stop at the right places because otherwise the former will be fined for it. If passengers disobey traffic signs, they suffer. Doesn't that make better sense? (Drivers in Manila yield to the desires of commuters.)

In this sense, we might be better served by punishing the vote-seller than the vote-buyer. A bill after this end won't have a hard time getting the support of the Senate and the House of Representatives: if they could help it, politicians won't spend for elections, much less to buy votes. How will this work? You sell your vote and you get caught and you will never be allowed to vote again.

The sad fact is, the majority of voters won't vote if there's no money involved. Cut out vote-buying and remove the "moron" votes. Deploy enough cops and use the "vote-buying money" confiscated to buy food, etc., for the teachers and cops who will have to stay at and guard the polling places.

If there is no vote-buying, only the "uncompromised" votes will matter.

—JOHN YAP,
johnsimonyap@gmail.com

Happy that young leaders like Alan are around

I WAS SURFING THE NET FOR days and was very surprised to find a lot of negative, even hostile opinions about Alan Peter Cayetano. In a nutshell, they portray him as somebody who doesn't walk the talk, or has no evidence to prove his allegations, or is all hot air and no substance, and is full of cheap tricks.

Am I getting old or what? I was thinking that, at 51, I'm passé, out of style and outdated. But I can still recognize a good thing when it comes my way. Having children, nephews and nieces and grandchildren, I am naturally drawn to young people. I've always shared Rizal's view that "the youth is the hope of the motherland."

Cayetano, Francis Escudero and Darlene Antonino-Custodio are all young people, daring and audacious and untainted by scandal or corruption. They are still full of idealism and their love for the country shows in their relentless pursuit of the truth and fight against government corruption. During the impeachment trial of President Macapagal-Arroyo, they defied overwhelming numbers and daunting odds to fight for their beliefs. They gave their best to win, even though they knew theirs was, from the practical viewpoint, a lost cause. They gallantly stood their ground in the face of the insults their older and more seasoned colleagues in the House hurled at them.

Does Cayetano have evidence? The certification from the German bank says he doesn't. Why does he insist the bank account exists? He is a lawyer. I think he will not put himself on the line if there is nothing there. At this point, not all the evidence has been made public, Malacañang's allies have made sure of this. The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow. I think we should give Cayetano the benefit of the doubt. There must be a reason for his persistence. Shouldn't we be happy that there are those who are brave enough to fiscalize the present dispensation? It is not healthy that somebody rules beyond criticism. There must always be room for improvement. There must be justice even for people in high places.

Young people like Cayetano, Escudero and Antonino-Custodio, therefore, make me feel safe and secure in the thought that our country is in good hands, that our youth are indeed, as Rizal saw them, the hope of the motherland.

More power to Cayetano and company. Don't give up the fight. May his idealism inspire his countrymen.

—JEAN ROJAS,
rarivera8@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

CPR not proper in heart attack

THE NEWS STORY "EXEC SAVES a man's life" (INQUIRER, 5/6/07) could be a way of encouraging people to train on CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) application and what to do during emergencies. I hope the INQUIRER would consider correcting the popular but erroneous notion that CPR is administered on a person having a heart attack. CPR is applied in cardiac arrest, not heart attack, cases.

In a heart attack, a person remains conscious. This means he still breathes and his heart beats. In a cardiac arrest, the heart stops beating and breathing ceases. It is critically important to clarify this. We do not want people attempting to perform chest compressions on someone having a heart attack. Sadly, this often happens. CPR can aggravate a heart attack and may even become the very cause of cardiac arrest and worse, death.

May I also stress that it is important to learn how to administer CPR from an authorized source. After watching on TV or reading in the media how CPR and other related rescue procedures are done, some people feel confident applying these procedures on their own without proper training. Such attempts often cause more injuries, delay in transporting the victim to a medical facility and aggravate the condition of the victim.

I hope the INQUIRER can help in promoting CPR training and in preventing the spread of wrong information about this life-saving method.

—EDRÉ APILADAS CATULIN,
former volunteer instructor,
Philippine National Red Cross,
edre.catulin@gmail.com

Poverty offshoot of corruption

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE column of Raul C. Pangalangan titled "The myth of the Catholic vote." (INQUIRER, 4/20/07)

Poverty is not a consequence of high population growth; rather it is a consequence of huge government funds lost to graft and corruption. The wasted money could have been put to better use, such as for the construction of more houses, roads, bridges and classrooms; providing better health services and creating more job opportunities, especially in the countryside. Of course, to do this would need a strong political will which is for our elected "honorable" men and women to exercise.

Women should be told about the adverse effects of contraceptives. The natural method, such as the Billings method, is safe but entails some sacrifice for both husband and wife; it may be a difficult choice for those who are used to instant gratification. Responsible parenthood, together with the attendant virtues of generosity, loyalty, respect for life, spirit of service, etc., should be inculcated in the youth through the good example of their parents and leaders.

Basic Catholic teachings are not subject to survey results, and they are not meant to satisfy men's whims or their hedonistic and materialistic bent.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 14:15-16) Let's live our Christian faith. If media men and women strive to be God's spokespersons, what a world of peace and prosperity we would have.

—CHING D. AUNARIO,
tag_makati@yahoo.com

What matters most in bar results

IN HIS APRIL 15 COLUMN, FORmer Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban Jr. called to mind the topnotchers of the past and the latest bar examinations, in the process, exalting the law schools that "produced" them.

The column made me wonder whether we are putting too much premium on a law school's ability to produce bar topnotchers as a gauge of its performance. Simply put, when a person tops the bar, does it necessarily follow that his law school is topnotch?

First things first: my hat off to all those who topped the bar examinations. As a lawyer and an "ordinary" bar passer, I know it is arduous to hurdle the bar exams, much more to top them. Needless to say, there is no question that their feat should be heralded. And they, as well as the schools that produced them, deserve praise and awe.

What throws me off is that while emphasis is given on topping the bar, less attention is given to a law school's passing percentage in the bar exams—which, I believe, should be the better, if not the accurate, way to determine a law school's performance. When a person tops the bar, there is no dispute that the training and discipline he received from his alma mater played a role. However, it cannot also be denied that a person "genetically predisposed" (and inherently lucky) has all the chances of topping the bar, regardless of where he or she may graduate. Hence, the real test of a good law school is its ability to transform "ordinary" students (with "ordinary intellectual capacity") into able members of the bar. This can only be determined from the law school's passing percentage.

In fact, there are a lot of law schools in this country which surprisingly obtain a high passing percentage. Unfortunately they have not produced a bar topnotcher yet. Conversely, there are some law schools lucky enough to produce a bar topnotcher, but can't get even half of its bar examinees to pass the all-important bar exam. Putting more emphasis on the achievement of topnotchers tends to belittle the achievement of a greater number of candidates who "merely" passed the bar. On the other hand, focusing on the school's passing percentage gives the bar passers the feeling of having contributed to their law school's honor.

The bottom line is this: equal emphasis should also be given to the law schools which consistently have high passing percentages so as not to take away their more notable and meaningful achievement.

—GRACE AQUINO,
gracia_217@yahoo.com

Too much

WHAT MAYOR JEJOmar Binay did in Makati when he was served a notice of suspension last May 4 by the Department of the Interior and Local Government was something that any person would do, if harassed.

I am so saddened that the Arroyo administration has a very low regard for the Filipino people that it failed to understand that what the DILG did was plain harassment—done at at the wrong time, for the wrong reason.

I am not usually keen on writing about government actions, but in this case, the administration is going too far. This is too much.

—BONG CENDANA,
bongcen@zpdee.net

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Maria Linda Aragon	Catbalogan, Samar	Virgilio Alvarez SS#06-1186720-5	January 29, 2007
2)	Emily & Ma. Lina Amatorio	Unknown	Susana Amatorio SS#07-0380014-1	October 22, 2006
3)	Marife Morado (wife of Virgilio Arca/ brother of member)	Unknown	Benjamin F. Arca SS#03-3870825-2	July 15, 2005
4)	Myrna Basello	Unknown	Ludivico Basilio, Jr. SS#07-0891535-8	May 3, 2006
5)	Teresita Bautista	Cubao, Q.C.	Remegio Bautista SS#03-3611608-2	September 4, 2006
6)	Vicenta Pablo Belen Bernadas	350 M. de Santos St., Binondo, Manila	Leoncio Bernadas SS#03-2509106-6	November 18, 2006
7)	Anunciacion Vite	Sampaloc, Manila	Carlito Calderon SS#03-3086098-1	January 14, 2007
8)	Irenea Tukib	Tagum, Davao del Norte	Francisco Conado SS#09-0261024-2	February 10, 2007
9)	Roselyn Deveza	Brgy. Concepcion, San Pablo City	Ernani G. Deveza SS#04-0584081-0	February 7, 2007
10)	Auroro Flores Diaz	44 Gomez St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City	Ernesto E. Diaz SS#03-3787835-8	March 11, 2007
11)	Tessie N. Escalante	Bagacay, Hinabangan	Tomas Escalante SS#06-0315645-8	January 12, 2007
12)	Virginia Fernando	Dibla, Casiguruhan, Quezon	Marcelino R. Gatuz SS#04-0076132-1	December 12, 2006
13)	Magdalena A. Gemelga	Unknown	Tomas Gemelga SS#07-0307358-3	August 6, 2002
14)	Jocelyn M. Gueco	Unknown	Leo A. Gueco SS#03-2899812-4	November 6, 2006
15)	Sofia C. Howell	1622 Lepanta St., Sampaloc, Manila	Benigno C. Howell SS#03-4405413-6	March 25, 2007
16)	Perfecto Guillermo/ Alfredo Atienza	Nueva Ecija, San Carlos/ Navotas, Malabon	Dolores R. Limbag SS#03-3738840-8	January 14, 2007
17)	Salvacion Reyes Elma Tamayo Anabelle Mirambel	Brgy. Concepcion, San Pablo City	Domingo L. Mirambel SS#04-0131574-7	December 30, 2006
18)	Consuelo Amante Nery	Pasay City	Abelardo Nery SS#03-0331697-0	May 9, 2006
19)	Florencia Liba Obarra	Hacienda Nicolas, Isabela, Neg. Occ.	Marcelino Obarra SS#07-0207922-9	June 27, 2006
20)	Bobby Oliver	Manila	Agustin Oliver SS#33-1783822-1	March 18, 2007
21)	Annabelle Palumar	Unknown	Rowel Palomar SS#07-1268871-0	December 17, 2005
22)	Lita T. Pardilla	Subic, Zambales/ Novaliches, Q.C.	Renato Pardilla SS#03-8679417-9	April 4, 2007
23)	Clarissa Piosang Christian Piosang	122 Daang Bakal, Sangandaan, Kalookan City	Ramil L. Piosang SS#33-1327201-4	November 10, 2006
24)	Ma. Flor Quijano	Davila St., Navotas City	Romeo Quijano SS#03-3579021-8	December 11, 2006
25)	Lydia Tajada	Sta. Cruz, Manila	Antonio Ranoco SS#03-2182791-7	March 5, 2007
26)	Marites Roble	Ormoc City, Leyte	Arthur Roble SS#06-1391796-2	February 18, 2007
27)	Lolita Unay	Unknown	Roque Saliling SS#06-0613829-5	April 16, 2006
28)	Erlinda Monaloto	Sitio Landing, San Rafael, Tarlac	Lopenio C. Solomon SS#02-3208112-7	June 25, 2005
29)	Pinky John M. Teenglo	Lopun-lopun, Maco Comval Province	Michael C. Teenglo SS#09-2623179-1	October 13, 2006
30)	Romana	Unknown	Meneleo Zaldivar SS#03-0079867-2	June 29, 2006

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – May 19, 2007)

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SCANDAL: Mystery reportedly surrounds the personal life of Shaha Riza, the woman that cost Wolfowitz his job. AP

FAVORITISM SCANDAL that rocked the 185-nation World Bank ends with the resignation effective June 30 of its president Paul Wolfowitz. AFP

Shaha Riza 'very angry'

WASHINGTON—MYSTERY SURrounds Shaha Riza's personal life, by her design, yet two things are beyond doubt. She is smart, exceptionally so. And angry.

"Very angry," Paul Wolfowitz said of her recently. Wolfowitz lost his job as World Bank president Thursday over an ethical entanglement arising from his yearslong relationship with the former bank employee.

Riza, an Oxford-educated Arab Muslim feminist in her early 50s, has worked for years for democratic change in the Middle East and for sexual equality both in repressive societies and within the bank. She has done so most of that time without drawing enormous attention to herself.

"I simply do not know how to blow my own trumpet," she says.

Yet, in statements to World Bank officials, she came out fighting against the "vicious public attacks on me" that flowed from her relationship with hardline conservative Wolfowitz, a bond that has been as notable for its quiet unfolding in gossipy Washington as for its longevity.

Riza began working for the bank eight years before Wolfowitz took over as president in June 2005. She was moved to the State Department that fall to avoid a conflict of interest but stayed on the bank's payroll. The bank's ethics panel concluded she subsequently received salary increases at Wolfowitz's direction that were higher than allowed under bank rules.

Riza bristled at being forced to leave the bank in 2005, arguing that as senior communications officer for the Middle East and North Africa office, she did not report to Wolfowitz in any capacity and no bank regulations prohibited her continued employment. "I felt under attack by a powerful group that had no right to make assumptions," she said in a statement to a special panel investigating Wolfowitz.

And she noted the "irony of my working to ensure women's participation and rights through the work of the World Bank and to be then stripped of my own rights by this same institution."

Wolfowitz went so far as to suggest that the bank's ethics committee members put the onus on him to arrange her outside employment because they were afraid to cross her.

They "did not want to deal with a very angry Ms Riza," he wrote in a biting assessment of the panel's actions. "It would only be human nature for them to want to steer clear of her."

He hinted, too, that she was none too happy with him. He quoted her as telling the panel that he should have stood up for her rather than accepted an arrangement that moved her out of her job.

"He became them—you—the bank," she told the panel, "and I had to fend for myself in the same way I'm now fending for myself."

In her bank and academic work, Riza has promoted the link between freedom and feminism, reasoning that the fall of dictators in male-dominated societies in the Arab world and elsewhere would give rise to equality for women.

In that spirit, she organized a conference three years ago of Middle Eastern and North African democracy advocates that declared dictatorship a "crime against humanity," and she went to Iraq a year earlier to try to draw more women into the post-Saddam government.

The feminist Muslim and the Jewish conservative formed an intellectual connection on the advancement of democracy and a personal one that flowered this decade, years after they had met while both were connected to the National Endowment for Democracy in the early 1990s.

Riza speaks Arabic, French, Italian, Turkish and English, and she majored in international relations at the London School of Economics and in social studies at Oxford. She has a grown son.

After about a year at the State Department, Riza became a board member of the Foundation for the Future, a pro-democracy group financed in part by State. Since leaving the bank, her salaries—still covered by the institution—have risen to over $193,000 (euro142,793) from close to $133,000 (euro98,400). *AP*

Wolfowitz quits, ending global ...

From page A1

tion package for Shaha Ali Riza, his companion, in 2005.

The resignation, effective June 30, brought a dramatic conclusion to two days of negotiations between Wolfowitz and the bank board after weeks of turmoil.

'In good faith'

"He assured us that he acted ethically and in good faith in what he believed were the best interests of the institution, and we accept that," said the board's directors in a statement issued Thursday night. "We also accept that others involved acted ethically and in good faith."

In the carefully negotiated statement, the bank board praised Wolfowitz's two years of service, particularly his work in arranging debt relief and pressing for more assistance to poor countries. They also cited his work in combating corruption, his signature issue.

Wolfowitz said he was grateful for the directors' decision and, referring to the bank's mission of helping the poor, added: "Now it is necessary to find a way to move forward. To do that I have concluded that it is in the best interests of those whom this institution serves for that mission to be carried forward under new leadership."

'War' averted

Wolfowitz's negotiated departure averted what threatened to become a bitter rupture between the United States and its economic partners at an institution established after World War II that channels $22 billion in loans and grants a year to poor countries.

President Bush earlier in the day praised Wolfowitz at a news conference but signaled that the end was near by saying he regretted "that it's come to this." A White House spokesperson, Tony Fratto, said in the evening: "We would have preferred that he stay at the bank, but the president reluctantly accepts his decision."

More important for the bank's future, Fratto said Bush would soon announce a candidate to succeed Wolfowitz, quashing speculation that the United States would go along with an end to the custom, in effect since the 1940s, of the American president picking the bank president. *New York Times News Service*

RP stocks surge to highest level ...

From page A1

our stock market. We are edified by the confidence shown by our financial market and investors in our ability to surmount the myriad challenges that usually exist in any election. Our journey to peace, stability and progress is unimpeded," the President said in a statement.

As investors ignored Wall Street's retreat and focussed on the domestic economy, the main index added 31.49 points or 0.92 percent Friday to close at a new record high of 3,449.18.

"A confluence of favorable developments helped the PSEi set a new record and I am confident that the same factors will support our market as it blazes new stock market trails. The positive development includes improvement in government's fiscal position, falling interest and inflation rates and higher corporate earnings," PSE president Francis Lim said.

Lim said the market's record-breaking performance came on the heels of the relatively peaceful elections held last May 14.

A SINGLE GESTURE SAYS IT ALL: Investors remain bullish on the country's economic outlook. The Philippine Stock Exchange closes Friday at its highest finish since stock market trading began here in 1927. REUTERS

'Peace dividend'

"I believe that the market surge represents our own peace dividend from the elections which the market views to be relatively peaceful," Lim said.

"All this helped elevate level of confidence of investors in the market and explained why more and more investors are investing their money in our markets thereby increasing value turnover," Lim added.

The main index traded yesterday between 3,457.93 and 3,419.40. It was the third straight session that the key index posted a record intraday high.

The broader all-share index jumped 17.88 points to 2,200.25.

There were 62 gainers and 40 losers with 57 unchanged.

A total of 3.1 billion shares worth P9.7 billion were traded, including a cross sale of San Miguel B shares worth P4.82 billion.

Peso at 6-year high

For the week to May 18, the composite index rose 84.57 points or by 2.51 percent to 3,449.18. Average daily turnover this week rose to 3.69 billion shares worth P6.33 billion from 3.52 billion shares worth P4.32 billion the previous week.

At the spot currency market, the peso rallied to 46.60 against the dollar Friday, a new six-year high, after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said Thursday that foreign portfolio investments in April rose 40 percent from a month earlier to $243.1 million.

Meralco shares

Strong interest in Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) sustained the market's momentum. The power distribution firm was the second biggest gainer for the day.

Meralco's A shares, which only Filipinos can buy, jumped 11.5 percent or P9 to P87. Its B shares, which are open to foreign investors, rose by 10 percent or P8 to P87.50. Meralco shares were also the second top traded issue yesterday with a total of P566.7 million worth of shares changing hands.

Ayala Corp. gained P10 to P520.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) advanced P15 to P2,540.

San Miguel A rose P1.50 to 76.50, but its B shares fell P2 to 80.

Traders said shares of Meralco soared amid speculation that the government would sell its stake in the utility firm.

Privatization

The government hopes to revive its multibillion-dollar power privatization plans and has said that it would restart the auction for the Masinloc coal-fired power plant on July 26.

Dealers said investors sentiment was also buoyed after the government said that it would limit its overseas and domestic borrowings next year to balance its budget.

"We continue to see the decisiveness of the government in addressing the budget deficit," said Monique Lecaros, a dealer at SB Equities Inc.

"The market will be poised to establish record highs in the next week," she said.

Investors should buy the Philippine market, given the bullish outlook of the economy and reasonable valuations, said Arthur Budaghyan, managing editor of Emerging Markets Strategy at BCA Research, in a client note.

"Despite political hurdles to investment, the economic case for a capex revival is overwhelming," Budaghyan said.

'Very underinvested'

"The Philippine economy is very underinvested and the revival of capital spending will be the centerpiece of economic expansion in the year or two," he said.

Analysts said Friday that share prices could hit a new all-time high next week as a result of the generally peaceful midterm elections.

"We are trying to test the 3,450 level if the election counting would push through smoothly. It would go up higher by next week and maybe set new all-time high," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities Inc.

Market analysts noted that the Philippine stock market has bucked the dip in regional markets, reinforcing views that the index may be poised to hit the 3,600 to 3,700 level by year-end.

"We expect the market to attempt to reach the all-time high given ... the positive sentiment, positive earnings, and healthier economy after the generally peaceful election," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

The Philippines held its elections on Monday for half of its 24-seat Senate and 275 seats in the House of Representatives as well as for thousands of local positions.

Mostly peaceful

Although the death toll from election-related violence has hit 130, the voting itself was peaceful in most of the country.

The counting of votes after last Monday's midterm elections continued with the opposition poised to gain control of the Senate, based on initial tallies.

Ms Arroyo's allies, however, are expected to keep their comfortable majority in the House of Representatives.

"The victory of the overwhelming majority of candidates sympathetic to the administration shows a vote for political stability and economic reform," Ms Arroyo told an investor conference Thursday, referring to election results for the House as well as local government posts.

Conrado Bate, president at Citiseconline.Com, said politics was taking a back seat for the moment.

Bates said that President Arroyo's pronouncement that administration candidates dominated Congress was easing concerns of a revival of impeachment proceedings which could stall economic reforms.

"This reinforces what the President said earlier that reforms will not be compromised by politics," Bate said. *With reports from AFP, Reuters and Michael Lim Ubac*

3 Pinays complete historic Everest traverse

From page A1

the South Side.

Noelle Wenceslao, 27, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino, both 28, climbed up the North Side from Tibet and climbed down the South Side into Nepal and reached base camp yesterday before 6 p.m. Manila time.

They are also the first Southeast Asian women to reach the summit.

In a brief satellite phone call from Everest Base Camp (5,380 m or 17,600 ft above sea level), a happy Belarmino spoke first: "It was so hard. But we are down now and we are ready to go home."

Belarmino gave birth to her first son, Himalaya, just five months ago. She said throughout the climb, she was thinking of her baby boy.

"My baby is my inspiration. All I wanted to do was get up the mountain and back down again so I can go home and see my baby," said Belarmino, who had the added challenge of getting back into climbing shape in record time.

Doubly hard

When it was her turn to speak, Wenceslao said their feat was "challenging—mentally, physically and spiritually."

"I feel high and happy. We are now at base camp and celebrating with a large group of Filipinos," she said.

For the traditional celebratory, but otherwise, simple dinner for Everest "summiteers," the women feasted on luncheon meat, Bicol Express and pork and beans, she said.

Wenceslao's father, Peewee, was also at base camp to welcome his daughter.

The feat was doubly hard for Wenceslao who suffered from acute mountain sickness and pulmonary edema—the liquification of the lungs in high altitude.

"I was sick of many things. But I managed through prayers and the support from my teammates," she said.

An excited Dayondon recounted her time on the top of the world: "It was joyous. I can't explain it. We planted the [Philippine] flag and took pictures. I said a prayer and thanked the mountain gods for the opportunity to reach the summit. It was a blessing that the mountain allowed us to reach summit."

She added: "*Andun yung hirap.* (The difficulties are there). But we got strong support from our friends, our teammates and each other."

President Macapagal-Arroyo was elated when she heard about the three Filipino women who scaled Mt. Everest, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on Thursday.

"The President is elated by the feat of the three brave Filipino women mountaineers who honored not only the Philippines but also the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] community with their inspiring achievement," Bunye said in a statement.

"[Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino] are now at par with the toughest mountain climbers of the world. The Filipino people are awed by the climbers' sense of adventure, physical strength and endurance as well as the passion that led them to the top," he said.

In a satellite phone call to the INQUIRER earlier in the day, expedition leader Art Valdez said Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino set the world record as the first women to traverse the two routes in Everest and the first Southeast Asian women to reach the summit.

Indonesian Clara Sumawati was said to have reached the peak of Everest in 1996 but this feat is disputed.

The three Filipinas were also the first women to reach the summit this climbing season. They beat out a Malaysian climbing on the South Side as well as a Korean female climber Goh Mi-yeong, who was ascending on the North Side.

A traverse of the two routes is considered a major accomplishment and has been achieved by only a handful of male mountaineers.

The first traverse of Everest was a feat accomplished by Willi Unsoeld and Tom Hornbein on May 22, 1963. Tibetan Phantog is the first woman to reach the summit from the North Side on May 25, 1975. Japanese Junko Tabei is the first woman to reach Everest from the South Side on May 16, 1975.

The women started their historic climb on the North Side of the mountain, considered the more difficult route with its rockier terrain and gullies. They scaled three steps before charging the summit that slopes between 50 and 60 degrees.

Wenceslao was the first to reach the summit at 6:10 a.m. Nepal time (8:10 a.m. in Manila) on Wednesday followed by Dayondon at 6:20 a.m. (8:20 a.m. in Manila).

Belarmino reached the summit three hours later after she had to fall in line behind other climbers.

After reaching the summit, they started making their way down the South Side. While this is considered an easier route, the women were unfamiliar with the route. On the North Side, they had time to familiarize themselves with the route with their frequent acclimatization climbs.

The Filipinas had to rope themselves down the Hillary Step, a 40-foot wall that should be easy on sea level but poses a challenge for climbers at 8,760 m or 28,750 ft above sea level. This is the usual site for so-called "traffic jams" of climbers going up and down.

Final hurdle

Down the South Side, or the South Col around Camp 2 (6,500 m or 21,300 ft above sea level), the Filipinas had to carefully cross the Lhotse Face, a steep and narrow, ice-laden ledge.

Finally, the Khumbu Icefall was the final hurdle. A large ever-moving glacier that covers the lower part of Everest's South face, the icefall is full of pointed slabs of ice and deep crevasses which are crossed only through metal ladders. Three Sherpas lost their lives here last year.

The Filipinas were accompanied by Sherpas who also guided Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata in their historic climb to Everest last year. Oracion and Emata are teammates of the women in the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team. *With report from AFP*

2 South Korean climbers killed on Mt. Everest

KATHMANDU—TWO SOUTH Korean climbers were killed in a fall while trying to climb Mount Everest, Nepal's tourism ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry gave their names as Lee Hyun-Jo, 34, and Oh Hee-Joon, 37, and said they died on Wednesday on the difficult southwest face while climbing the world's highest mountain, which stands at 8,850 m.

Also on May 16, a 62-year old Japanese climber was reported to have died shortly after summiting from the North side.

Everestnews.com reported that Yoshitomi Okura, who was making his third attempt, collapsed after taking a few steps on the descent.

At least 202 people are known to have died on the slopes of Mount Everest.

Nearly 2,000 people have climbed the mountain since it was first scaled by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary, who first reached the peak of Everest with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953. *Reuters*

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Tension up in fraud-wracked areas

TENSION IS GRIPPING AREAS WHERE FRAUD is either delaying the counting or altering the results of the recent elections, prompting calls for government action and vigilance among poll watchers.

In Sultan Kudarat, government security forces cordoned off the town hall of Kalamansig and padlocked the election returns after the town election officer went missing on Wednesday.

Fr. Charlie Soliterio, of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections - Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, told radio station dxMS the canvassing of votes in the town was delayed after the Commission on Elections failed to send a replacement for election officer Sam Sarona who left for still unknown reasons.

"Supporters of politicians and residents are getting violent," said Soliterio.

Armed men tried to snatch the ERs yesterday but policemen got in the way.

Plans to transfer the counting to Isulan, Sultan Kudarat are held under suspicion.

Another arson

In Shariff Kabunsuan province, armed men tried to set fire to the municipal hall of Buldon town, where election materials were kept, at about 11 p.m. Thursday.

Col. Francis Allorin, commander of the 37th Infantry Battalion, said the fire was put out before it could spread.

Allorin said the target of the armed men were the election returns in the municipal hall.

He said some residents knew who the perpetrators were but wouldn't talk out of fear.

In Cotabato City, gubernatorial candidate Tocao Mastura of the Nationalist People's Coalition protested the replacement of election officers in some towns of Shariff Kabunsuan where he claimed he was winning.

"What was suspiciously questionable," according to Mastura, is that the replacement election officer come from Maguindanao where Team Unity candidates took a 12-0 questioned victory.

Mastura said on Wednesday, a convoy with armed men fetched an election officer in Matanog. "I'm not sure why was he fetched or was he kidnapped?" Mastura said.

Mastura said he has informed ARMM Comelec chief Rey Sumalipao but "he has not issued any directive to this effect." Sumalipao would not answer calls made to his mobile phone.

Clash in Isabela

In Santiago City, a policeman and a poll watcher were wounded yesterday when supporters of Mayor Amelita Navarro and Vice Mayor Armando Tan clashed while the canvassing of votes was ongoing at the Antonio Abaya Memorial Coliseum here.

Police said the victims suffered head injuries and were treated at a nearby clinic.

The tension eased when Chief Insp. Juan Aggasid, Santiago City mobile group commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Loreto Magundayao, 54th Infantry Battalion commander, sent 50 policemen to the area.

Twenty members of the special weapons and tactics team were also sent to the site.

Fr. John Bartolome, head of the city's Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), said the election inspectors failed to give copies of three certificates of canvass (COCs) to their group that were allegedly held by the canvassing board.

Bartolome said his volunteers were also barred from entering the coliseum on Thursday night.

Tension started on Thursday night when three ballot boxes allegedly surfaced after these went missing for four days at the canvassing site.

Resignation

In Cagayan, three members of the province's board of canvassers resigned following a feud with the lawyer of Gov. Edgar Lara and Mayor Randolph Ting who accused them of bias.

Michael Valdez, chair of the Cagayan board of canvassers, and members, Amador Arao and Marieta Tumaneng, said they were quitting because they "could no longer bear the insult and false accusations" hurled against them by lawyer Levito Baligod, counsel of Lara and Ting.

The canvassing of votes at the Kamaranan Hall in Tuguegarao City stopped on Thursday after Baligod shouted at the board members who he accused of being biased.

Baligod accused the board of not acting on his request to open the ballot boxes in Tuao town for a recount due to what he called "manifest errors."

Suspicious ballot boxes

In Romblon, three ballot boxes that arrived in the province on election day were held by watchdog groups for fear they would be used for fraud.

The municipal Comelec failed to explain what the boxes were for.

The ballot boxes came from the Comelec central office in Manila and were delivered at 11 a.m. on May 14 to San Agustin town, which was the drop-off point for all ballot boxes for the elections.

"We had a discussion with the candidates' lawyers about the ballot boxes. There were suspicions that they would be used for ballot switching so we guarded them," said Flores.

Two of the ballot boxes were supposedly for Calatrava and Alcantara towns in Tablas Island, while one was for San Jose in Carabao Island.

The ballot boxes are now in the custody of the Comelec.

Flores also reported that Comelec officials refused to provide Namfrel with the sixth copy of the ERs, as required by an agreement between Namfrel and Comelec.

Some watchers were prevented from entering polling precincts.

Winning bet disqualified

In Dumaguete City, reports said the Comelec disqualified winning candidate Jocelyn D. Sy-Limkaichong in Negros Oriental's first congressional district over citizenship issues.

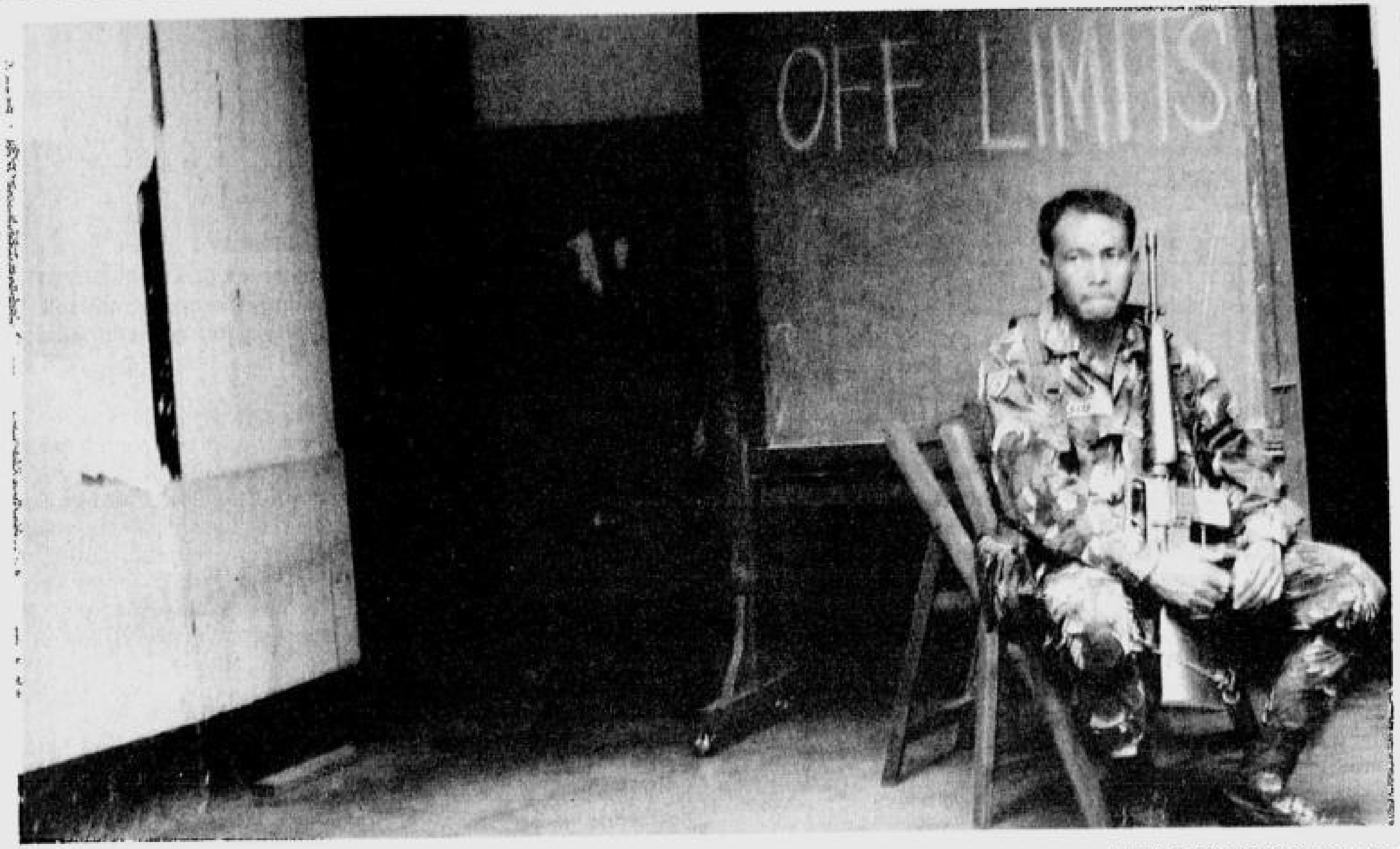
The Comelec second division issued a resolution on May 17 that would stop the proclamation of Limkaichong for not being a natural-born Filipino.

Limkaichong, incumbent mayor of La Libertad town, is leading against candidates Jerome Paras and Olive Paras.

The Comelec said Limkaichong was born a Chinese national because her father, Julio Ong Sy, had not yet acquired Filipino citizenship through naturalization proceedings at the time of her birth.

But Limkaichong told the Comelec that the Court of First Instance granted Sy's petition for naturalization on Sept. 21, 1959.

She said her father took his oath of allegiance as a naturalized Filipino citizen on Oct. 21, 1959. Limkaichong was born on Nov. 9, 1959. *Reports from Charlie C. Señase, Edwin O. Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao; Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Marciano T. Virola, Jr., Contributor; and Alex Pal and Romy Amarado, Inquirer Visayas*



EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SHADOWY
A soldier keeps watch outside a classroom at the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued, Abra, where ballot boxes from Tineg town were being kept in a province wracked by election violence and fraud.

Baguio poll staff found members of Lakas-CMD

BAGUIO CITY—TEACHERS CANvassing ballots cast in the May 14 elections have been put on the spot by a pre-proclamation complaint that some of them have assumed poll duties without disclosing their membership with the administration Lakas CMD.

Reelectionist Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, Lakas Cordillera chair, led the congressional race with 40,305 votes against lawyer Jose Molintas' 31,021 votes in the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) count as of 5:27 a.m. Friday.

Molintas on Friday asked the Commission on Elections to investigate teachers belonging to boards of election inspectors (BEI), citing testimonies from barangay officials that some board members had tampered with ballots in favor of Domogan.

He also asked the board to suspend Domogan's impending proclamation, but he was told by the board to seek a court injunction instead.

City Prosecutor Benedicto Carantes, a member of the canvass board, said the board was not in a position to hear the complaint.

"We are not prosecuting the teachers here… [but] I would like to go on record that [the city elections] were run by BEI who were Lakas [members]," Molintas said.

Domogan said the election law is silent about making volunteers and teachers disclose their political affiliations when undertaking poll duties.

But he said the matter would be resolved in the 2010 presidential elections when Comelec computerizes the election process, and would consequently require few teachers to be deputized for poll duties.

"[The insurance project] is not even mine but the party's. We are also victims here. We have accounts of times when teachers also made a mistake in favor of Molintas," Domogan said.

Molintas, a city councilor, said his supporters discovered the anomaly when one of the teachers admitted receiving a Lakas accident insurance card valued at P100,000.

This was apparently the same insurance card distributed by Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas-CMD president.

But Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said there was nothing amiss if the insurance cards benefited Lakas members since their votes were already assumed to favor the party. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

AN ELEMENTARY school in Baguio laid out this instruction board to show early voters where they should proceed to cast their ballots.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

ROUNDUP

4 dead as jeep slams into truck

ROSARIO, Batangas—Four people were killed and 10 others were injured after a public utility jeep (PUJ) collided with a parked Isuzu dump truck and a private jeep at Barangay Itlugan Thursday afternoon, a police official said. SPO4 Isidro Ancheta, acting Rosario police chief, said a Taysan-bound PUJ driven by Emeterio Escala, was traveling so fast when it bumped into an Isuzu dump truck. The impact moved the truck forward and brought it into a collision with the private jeep. Two of the dead were identified as Sabino Valencia and Benjamin Pineda. The two other fatalities were not identified as of 5 p.m. yesterday. Police will file charges against the PUJ driver.
Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILF backed 2 GO bets

TACURONG CITY, Sultan Kudarat—Two Genuine Opposition candidates were supported by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) because, the MILF said, they have clear programs for Mindanao. Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said candidates Loren Legarda and Chiz Escudero have stated clearly their platforms of government for the peace process in Mindanao. Peace talks with the MILF were stalled over issues of territory.
Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Loren deplores treatment of teachers

LEADING senatorial candidate Loren Legarda yesterday deplored what she said was cruel and inconsiderate treatment of school teachers who served as poll clerks following reports that the teachers had to virtually beg for their election allowances while some had put their lives on the line to protect the sanctity of the ballot. "They deserve not only our respect but also our gratitude because they serve beyond the call of duty and even at the risk of their lives," she said in a press statement.

Winner says win a vindication

BACOLOD CITY—As Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban conceded defeat to his opponent Jose Montelibano, Montelibano said he felt that his victory at the polls was a vindication. The Commission on Elections early this year ruled that Montelibano won against Gamban in the 2004 elections but the order was never enforced as it was under appeal. But Gamban, who ran under the Kampi banner, said he would not be running again for mayor. "The truth is the majority of the people in Silay do not like me so I cannot insist," Gamban said yesterday even before the Comelec vote count was over. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Abalos son-in-law stops count in Biñan

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—AT LEAST 1,000 people with placards trooped to the municipal hall here as the Commission on Elections on Friday ordered the Board of Canvassers in this municipality to stop the canvassing.

The people who were rallying in front of the municipal hall said they voluntarily went there and were not sure until when they would stay there.

Some of the placards said, "Yatco *tanggapin mo na ang pagkatalo mo. Wag mong babuyin ang bayan ng* Biñan," and "Yatco at Abalos *tigilan ninyo ang* Biñan."

The order came after mayoral candidate Jose Ruben Yatco, son-in-law of the Comelec chair, filed a petition on Thursday to suspend the canvassing and declare a failure of elections.

Yatco, in his petition, said around 50 percent of the voters were disenfranchised because of "several questionable events."

The petition said unidentified civilians announced the suspension of election before the opening of the precincts and during the prescribed voting.

The canvassing in Biñan stopped at noon.

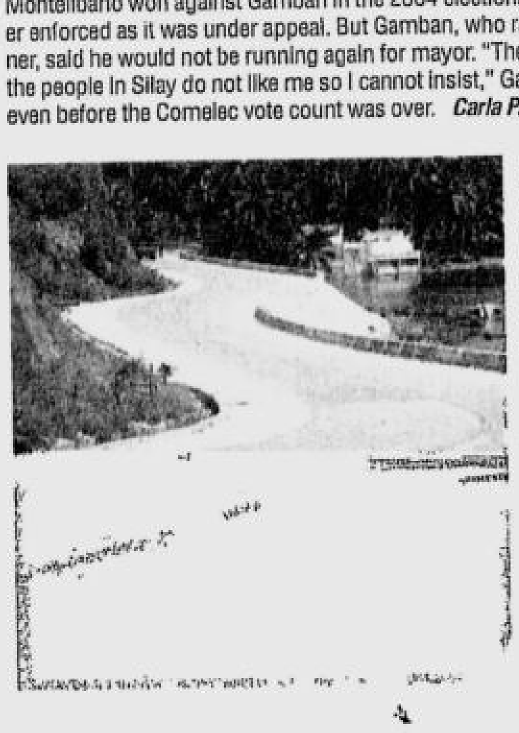
The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in Biñan has tabulated 86 percent of the total ERs.

Their partial count showed Yatco, with 23,404 votes tailing Marlyn Alonte with 29,781 votes.

Around 100 supporters of Alonte were conducting a vigil in protest of the suspension of the canvassing.

Emmanuel Maestro, campaign staffer of Alonte, said that there was no failure of elections.

He said the election was "peaceful and successful" if only the canvassing was not suspended.



BOHOL is speeding up efforts to bring itself to the forefront of development by improving its arterial road links. Photo shows the Bohol Circumferential Road at the Candijay-Jagna-Valencia section, a project of Bohol Gov. Erico B. Aumentado and triple-A contractor C.M. Pancho Const., Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELEKSYON 2007

CAR

BENGUET

Governor	
FONGWAN, NESTOR (Kampi)	Winner
BAGUIO CITY	
Mayor	
BAUTISTA, Reinaldo Jr. (Kampi)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
FARIÑAS, Daniel	Winner

IFUGAO

Governor	
BAGUILAT, Teodoro Jr. (LP)	Winner
Congressman	
CHUNGALAO, Solomon (CAPP)	Winner

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Governor	
DALOG, Maximo (Lakas-CMD)	,Winner
Vice Governor	
CLAVER, Louis Jr. (Ind)	Winner
Congressman (lone)	
DOMINGUEZ, Victor (Kampi)	Winner

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS SUR

Governor	
SAVELLANO, Deogracias Victor (Lakas)	Winner

PANGASINAN

Congressman (1st district)	
CELESTE, Arturo (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (5th district)	
COJUANGCO, Marcos (NPC)	Winner
DAGUPAN CITY	
Mayor	
FERNANDEZ, Alipio Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
FERNANDEZ, Belen (Lakas)	Winner
SAN CARLOS CITY	
Mayor	
RESUELLO, Julier (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
RESUELLO, Joseres (Lakas)	Winner

CAGAYAN VALLEY

ISABELA

CAUYAN CITY	
Mayor	
DY, Caesar (NPC)	Winner

CENTRAL LUZON

PAMPANGA

Governor	
PANLILIO, Eddie (Ind)	Winner
ANGELES CITY	
Mayor	
NEPOMUCENO, Francis (NPC)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
VEGA, Maria Vicenta (Kampi)	Winner

TARLAC

Governor	
YAP, Victor (NPC)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
PRIETO-TEODORO, Monica Louise (NPC)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
YAP, Jose (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
LAPUS, Jeci (Lakas)	Winner

ZAMBALES

Governor	
DELOSO, Amor (LP)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
MAGSAYSAY, Maria Milagros (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
DIAZ, Antonio (Lakas)	Winner

CALABARZON

BATANGAS

Congressman (1st district)	
ERMITA-BUHAIN, Elenita (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (4th district)	
MENDOZA, Mark Llandro (NPC)	Winner
BATANGAS CITY	
Mayor	
DIMACUHA, Eduardo (Kampi)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
TOLENTINO, Jose (Lakas)	Winner
LIPA CITY	
Mayor	
GOZOS, Oscar (Lakas)	Winner

CAVITE

CAVITE CITY	
PAREDES, Bernardo (Kampi)	Winner
CITY OF TRECE MARTIREZ	
DE SAGUN, Melencio Jr. (Ind)	Winner

LAGUNA

SAN PABLO CITY	
Mayor	
AMANTE, Vicente (NPC/LDP/Aksyon Demokratiko)	Winner
CALAMBA CITY	
Mayor	
CHIPECO, Joaquin Jr. (Kampi)	Winner

MIMAROPA

MARINDUQUE

Governor	
CARRION, Jose Antonio (Ind)	Winner
Vice Governor	
PIZARRO, Tomas (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman	
REYES, Carmencita (Lakas)	Winner
*BOAC	
Mayor	
SOLOMON, Meynardo (Lakas)	Winner

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Governor	
SATO, Josephine (NPC)	Winner
Vice Governor	
MENDIOLA, Mario Gene (NPC)	Winner
Congressman	
VILLAROSA, Ma. Amelita (Kampi)	Winner
*MAMBURAO	
Mayor	
PANALIGAN, Joel (UNO)	Winner

ORIENTAL MINDORO

Governor	
PANALIGAN, Arnan (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
ACERON, Ma. Estela Felipa (LAKAS-CMD)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
VALENCIA, Rodolfo (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
UMALI, Alfonso (LP)	Winner
CALAPAN CITY	
Mayor	
LEACHON, Paulino (Liberal)	Winner

PALAWAN

Governor	
REYES, Mario Joel (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
PONCE DE LEON, David (NPC)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
MITRA, Abraham Kahlil (NPC)	Winner
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	
Mayor	
HAGEDORN, Edward (Kampi)	Winner
*BALABAC	
Mayor	
Shuaib J. Astami --Lakas	Winner
*BATARAZA	
Mayor	
IBBA, Abraham M. - (Lakas)	Winner

BICOL

ALBAY

*DARAGA	
Mayor	
TRIUMFANTE, Cicero	Winner
Vice Mayor	
MAGAYANES, Marlene	Winner
LIGAO CITY	
Mayor	
GONZALEZ, Linda (Lakas)	Winner
TABACO CITY	
Mayor	
LAGMAN-LUISTRO, Cielo Krisel (Lakas)	Winner
*STO. DOMINGO	
Mayor	
DE LOS ANGELES, Celso Jr. (LP)	Winner
*GUINOBATAN	
Mayor	
GARCIA, Juan (Lakas-CMD)	Winner

CAMARINES SUR

Governor	
VILLAFUERTE, Luis Raymund Jr. (Lakas-CMD)	Winner
Vice Governor	
FORTUNO, Salvio B.	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
ARROYO, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria M. (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
VILLAFUERTE, Luis (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
FUENTEBELLA, Arnulfo (NPC)	Winner
Congressman (4th district)	
ALFELOR, Felix Jr. (Kampi)	Winner

MASBATE

Congressman (1st district)	
BRAVO, Narciso Jr. (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
LANETE, Rizalina (NPC)	Winner
MASBATE CITY	
Mayor	
TUASON, Socrates (Kampi)	Winner

SORSOGON

Governor	
LEE, Sally (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
LAURUNARIA, Renato	Winner
Congressman (1st District)	
ESCUDERO, Salvador III (UNO)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
SOLIS, Jose (Kampi)	Winner
SORSOGON CITY	
Mayor	
DIONEDA, Leovic (UNO/NP)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
ATUTUBO, Edmundo (UNO/NP)	Winner

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN

Governor	
MARQUEZ, Carlito (Lakas)	Winner
Vice-Governor	
CALIZO, Gabrielle V. (NP)	Winner
Congressman	
MIRAFLORES, Florencio (Kampi)	Winner

CAPIZ

Congressman (2nd district)	
CASTRO, Fredenil (LP-Lakas)	Winner

ILOILO

ILOILO CITY	
Congressman	
GONZALES, Raul Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Mayor	
TREÑAS, Jerry (Lakas)	Winner
Vice-Mayor	
MABILOG, Jed Patrick E. (Lakas-CMD)	Winner

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Congressman (1st district)	
LEDESMA, Julio IV (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
LACSON, Jose Carlos (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (6th district)	
ALVAREZ, Genaro Rafael III (UNA)	Winner

CENTRAL VISAYAS

BOHOL

Governor	
AUMENTADO, Erico (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
HERRERA, Julius Caesar (Lakas-CMD)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
CHATTO, Edgardo (NPC)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
CAJES, Roberto (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
JALA, Adam Relson (Lakas)	Winner

CEBU

DANAO CITY	
Mayor	
DURANO, Ramon III (Lakas)	Winner
Vice-Mayor	
DURANO, Ramon D. Jr. (Lakas-CMD/Balud)	Winner
TOLEDO CITY	
Mayor	
ZAMBO, Arlene (Lakas)	Winner
Vice-Mayor	
ESPINOSA, Aurelio P. (Lakas-CMD)	Winner

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Governor	
MARCIAS, Emilio II C.	Winner
Vice-Governor	
BALDADO, Jose A. (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
SY-LIMKAICHONG, Josie (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
TEVES, Pryde Henry (Lakas)	Winner

SIQUIJOR

Governor	
FUA, Orlando Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
CORTES, Andre Jesu E. (Lakas CMD)	Winner
Congressman (lone)	
FUA, Orlando (Lakas)	Winner

EASTERN VISAYAS

LEYTE

TACLOBAN CITY	
Mayor	
ROMUALDEZ, Alfred (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
ANTONI, Arvin (Liberal Party)	Winner

WESTERN SAMAR

CATBALOGAN	
Mayor	
UY, Coefredo	Winner

NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON

Governor	
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
CALINGASAN, Alex (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (3rd district)	
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. III (Lakas)	Winner
MALAYBALAY CITY	
Mayor	
FLORES, Florencio Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
ZUBIRI, Ignacio	Winner

DAVAO

DAVAO ORIENTAL

Governor	
MALANYAON, Corazon (Kampi)	Winner
Vice-Governor	
ALMARIO, Joel	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
DAYANGHIRANG, Nelson (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALMARIO, Thelma (Lakas)	Winner
* MATI	
Mayor	
RABAT, Michelle	Winner

SOCCSKSARGEN

NORTH COTABATO

* MLANG	
Mayor	
PIÑOL, Lito	Winner
* MAGPET	
Mayor	
PIÑOL, Efren Jr.	Winner

SARANGANI

Governor	
DOMINGUEZ, Miguel Rene (SARRO-Kampi)	Winner
Vice Governor	
SOLON, Steve	Winner
Congressman (lone)	
CHIONGBIAN, Erwin (SARRO-Lakas)	Winner

ARMM

SHARIFF KABUNSUAN (NEW)

* BULDON	
Mayor	
TOMAWIS, Bai Fatima	Winner

CARAGA

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Governor	
AMANTE, Erlpe John (Kampi)	Winner
Vice Governor	
CORVERA, Enrico (Kampi)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
AQUINO, Jose II (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
AMANTE, Edelmiro (Kampi)	Winner
BUTUAN CITY	
Mayor	
PLAZA, Democrito II (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Mayor	
SANCHEZ, Dino	Winner

AGUSAN DEL SUR

Governor	
CORNELIO, Maria Valentina (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (lone)	
PLAZA, Rodolfo (NPC)	Winner

SURIGAO DEL SUR

Governor	
PIMENTEL, Vicente Jr. (Lakas)	Winner
Vice Governor	
NAVARRO, Librado (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (1st district)	
PICHAY, Philip (Lakas)	Winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
GARAY, Florencio (UNO)	Winner

CAR

ABRA

Governor (Comelec 22 out of 27 towns)	
BERSAMIN, Eustaquio (Kampi)	47687
VALERA, Ma. Zita (PDSP)	27154
Congressman (lone)	
LUNA, Cecilia (LP)	26393
VALERA, Vicente (NPC)	27985

BENGUET

BAGUIO CITY	
Congressman (lone district)	
DOMOGAN, Mauricio (Lakas-CMD)	41868
KINDIPAN, Ramon (Ind.)	609
MOLINTAS, Jose Mencio (NPC-UNO)	31727
TAYENGCO, Thomas (KBL)	1032

ILOCOS REGION

PANGASINAN

(Comelec, 43 towns and 2 cities)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Jamie Eloise (Ind)	356228
ESPINO, Amado Jr. (Kampi)	380037
LAMBINO, Oscar (Lakas)	88042
Vice Governor	
PRIMICIAS, Marlyn (Kampi)	481917
VILLAR, Dionisio (Lakas)	241314
Congressman (3rd district)	
ARENAS, Ma. Rachel (Lakas)	38253
SORIANO, Gallant (PDSP)	31397
TULAGAN, Generoso Jr. (Kampi)	35087
DE VERA, Leocadio Jr. (NPC)	5866
Congressman (4th district)	
DE VENECIA, Jose Jr. (Lakas)	55761
LIM, Benjamin (PDP-Laban)	22985
Congressman (6th district)	
ESTRELLA, Conrado III (NPC)	120321

CAGAYAN VALLEY

ISABELA

(Comelec as of May 18)	
Governor	
DY, Benjamin (NPC)	150434
PADACA, Maria Gracia Cielo (LP)	158019

NUEVA VIZCAYA

(Comelec as of 4pm, 14 of 15 towns)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Rodolfo (NPC/Kampi)	56613
CUARESMA, Ma. Luisa (NP)	71664
Vice Governor	
GAMBITO, Jose (Abante Nueva Vizcaya)	76069
SADDUL, Reonel (NPC)	50895
Congressman (lone)	
LANTION, Ralph (Lakas-CMD)	45129
PADILLA, Carlos (NP)	78910
SALUN-AT, Ernesto (Ind)	5451
VICTORIO, Felizardo (Ind)	320

CENTRAL LUZON

BATAAN

(Comelec, 5 towns)	
Governor	
GARCIA, Enrique Jr. (Kampi)	69391
ROMAN, Leonardo (NPC)	43662

NUEVA ECIJA

(Namfrel, 5254 out of 5391 precincts)	
Governor	
JOSON, Mariano Cristino (Kampi)	275246
UMALI, Aurelio (Lakas)	374951
Vice Governor	
JOSON, Edward Thomas	317885
TARUC, Jose (Lakas)	264711
Congressman (1st district)	
DIAZ, Renato (Lakas)	59881
JOSON, Eduardo Nonato (Balane)	69739
Congressman (2nd district)	
FELIMON, Jose (Kampi)	27364
FLORA, Nemesio (Ind)	1577
GARCIA, Simeon (PMP)	37610
VIOLAGO, Joseph Gilbert (Lakas)	72712
Congressman (3rd district)	
CHUA, Voltaire (Kampi)	52850
FAJARDO, Pacifico (LP)	21165
JOSON, Eduardo IV (UNO)	17055
UMALI, Czarina (Lakas)	66219
Congressman (4th district)	
ANTONINO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	81334
PADIERNOS, Gay (Lakas)	43437
VILLAREAL, Julita (UNO)	45398

CALABARZON

BATANGAS

(COMELEC as of 3 p.m., 31 municipalities and two cities)	
Governor	
SANTOS-RECTO, Rosa Vilma (Lakas)	453084
SANARES, Nestor (PMP)	31855
SANCHEZ, Armando (Kampi)	319007
MANDANAS, Marcos Sr. (Ind)	2891
Vice Governor	
BUSTAMANTE, Praxedes (Ind)	1823
DE LEON, Christopher (UNO)	140105
ERMITA, Edwin (Lakas)	275283
LEVISTE, Jose Antonio II (Kampi)	301002
MAGSOMBOL, Fortunato (KBL)	636
Congressman (2nd district)	
GUTIERREZ, Luis (Ind)	131
CABIGAO, Orestes (Lakas)	22481
MANDANAS, Hermilando (LP)	149362
MENDOZA, Edgar (Kampi)	20737
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victoria (Lakas)	81653
COLLANTES, Nelson (Kampi)	57443

LAGUNA

(COMELEC as of 11 a.m.)	
Governor	
LAZARO, Teresita (Lakas)	244928
OLIVAREZ, Edwin (UNO)	216318
Vice Governor	
HERNANDEZ, Ramil (UNO)	152930
SISON, Raul Marco (Lakas)	91996
Congressman (1st district)	
ALATIIT, Gabnulang (PMP)	11983
FERNANDEZ, Danilo Ramon (UNO)	75505
JOAQUIN, Nereo Raymund Jr. (Lakas)	51726
PATROMO, Libreto (Ind)	1150
VIERNEZA, Felicisimo (Ind)	38590
Congressman (2nd district)	
CHIPECO, Justin Mark (NP)	15444
TAPIA, Susano (Ind)	2265
Congressman (4th district)	
AGARAO, Benjamin Jr. (LP)	22761
LAGUMBAY, Eulemio (Lakas)	5578
SAN LUIS, Edgar (Ind)	26966

QUEZON

(Namfrel as of 12 noon)	
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALCALA, Proceso (LP)	85218
ALVAREZ, Liza (KAMPI)	34658
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victor (LP)	3984
SUAREZ, Danilo (KAMPI)	13406
Congressman (4th district)	
MALITE, Narciso (LAKAS CMD)	4429
TAÑADA, Lorenzo (LP)	22716
RABAYA, Vicente Sr. (NPC)	2766

ALBAY

(COMELEC as of 4 p.m., 11 towns and 1 city)	
Governor	
BICHARA, Stephen (Ind)	2341
GONZALEZ, Fernando (Lakas)	114333
QUIAPON, Abdel Noel	358
SALCEDA, Jose Ma. Clemente (Ind)	118708
Vice Governor	
AZAÑA, Danilo	18328
BAYLON, Carlito	40032
ESTEVEZ, Pepe	47434
SAEL, Brando	68651
Congressman (1st district)	
(5 towns and 1 city)	
BOLO, Jose (Ind)	161
CALISIN, Jesus (UNO)	26819
LAGMAN, Castelar (Lakas)	54764
Congressman (2nd district), 2 towns	
APIN, Amelia Bonita (UNO)	12694
BICHARA, Al Francis (NP)	25092
IMPERIAL, Carlos (Lakas)	9395
MERCADER, Noel (Ind)	69
Congressman (3rd district)	
(4 towns and 1 city)	
ABILA, Arnel (Ind)	692
LIM, Reno (NPC)	57643
PRINCESA, Reynaldo (Aksyon Demokratiko)	11870

MASBATE

(PPCRV as of 7 a.m., Complete)	
Vice Governor	
ESPINOSA, Nanette (NPC)	58840
FERNANDEZ, Marlene (Ind)	7807
GADIA, Ruperto (Ind)	3807
REVIL, Vicente (Ind)	79647
VALDEMORO, Herminio	47352
Congressman (2nd district)	
CELERA, Ricardo (PDSP)	4398
ESPINOSA, Ma. Lourdes Lilia (Kampi)	31716
KHO, Antonio (Lakas)	44554
MANLAPAS, Leo (PDP-Laban)	3237

WESTERN VISAYAS

ANTIQUE

(COMELEC as of noon, 1,049 of 1,183 precincts)	
Governor	
PACIFICADOR, Arturo (KBL)	32,168
PEREZ, Salvacion (NPC)	39,061
PLAMERAS, Jovito Jr. (Lakas)	26,934
Vice-Governor	
CADIAO, Rhodora J. (Lakas-CMD)	48,176
FORNIER, Francisco X. (Independent)	1518
TE, Mary Jean N. (NPC)	38,761
Congressman (lone)	
DELFIN, Robert (PDSP)	42,784
JAVIER, Exequiel (Lakas)	51,882
MALLARES, Narzal (PMP)	2808
VILLAFLOR, Antero (Ind)	337

CAPIZ (COMELEC)

Governor (as of 3 p.m.)	
TANCO, Vic (LP)	152143
AMOROSO, Zenon (Ind)	2647
Vice-Governor (as of 3 p.m.)	
BARREDO, Felipe (unopposed) LP	121392
Congressman (1st district) (as of noon)	
CELINO, Angel Alan (Kampi)	35,447
DEL ROSARIO, Antonio (LP)	40925

ILOILO

(NAMFREL as of 8 a.m., 1,000 out of 1,144 precincts)	
Governor	
CAMPOSANO, Serapio (Ind)	1073
ROBERTO, Armanda (Lakas)	74312
TUPAS, Niel Sr. (LP)	149829
Vice-Governor	
CLAVEL, Margarito T. (Kampi)	2617
OSO, Domingo B. (LP)	82150
SUPLICO, Rolex T. (Independent)	128448
Congressman (1st district)	
FLORES, Gerardo (LP)	6356
GARIN, Janet (Lakas)	25299
Congressman (2nd district)	
JALBUENA-SYJUCO, Judy (Lakas)	37275
GONZALES, Diopito (Ind)	876
CAPADOSA, Cecilia (LP)	18526
Congressman (3rd district)	
DEFENSOR, Arthur Sr. (Lakas)	32961
LAURON, Zafiro (LP)	4154
Congressman (4th district)	
BIRON, Ferjenel (Lakas)	38118
DISTURA, Rolando (NPC)	17979
Congressman (5th district)	
SULPICO, Enrique Jr. (Lakas)	22973
TUPAS, Niel Jr. (LP/PDP-Laban)	29405

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (COMELEC)

Governor as of 10 a.m., 7,413 of 8,208 precincts.	
MARAÑON, Joseph (NPC)	553,256
TRIBACO, Luisito (KBL)	6014
VALLADAREZ, German (Ind)	6704
Vice Governor	
(as of 10 a.m.; 7,413 of 8,208 precincts)	
ZAYCO, Pedro (Unopposed) Lakas-CMD	86677
Congressman (4th district)	
(as of 10 a.m.; 1,247 of 1,379 precincts)	
CAMPOSANO, Jorge (KBL)	8664
FERRER, Jeffrey (NPC)	98257
Congressman (5th district)	
(as of 10 a.m.; 1,247 of 1,379 precincts)	
ARROYO, Ignacio Jr. (Kampi/Lakas)	60777
LOZADA, Jose Apolinario Jr. (LP)	38971
BACOLOD CITY	
(as of 3 p.m.; 566 of 1,181 precincts)	
Congressman	
HAGAD, Andres (Ind)	5,410
NOVERO, Renecito (NPC)	32,176
PUENTEVELLA, Monico (Lakas)	32,467
Mayor	
BERDIN, Jovito (Ind)	14,418
LEONARDIA, Evelio (NPC)	47,304
PONTERAS, Vicente (LP)	2,185
VALDEZ, Luzviminda (Lakas)	23,188
Vice Mayor	
CAÑA, Lyndon (Independent)	27,335
SAYSON, Jude Thaddeus (NPC)	29,981
SY, Elmer (Lakas CMD)	19,005

CENTRAL VISAYAS

CEBU

Governor	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 11,074 precincts)	
GARCIA, Gwendolyn (Kampi)	411,589
LEJARDE, Rolando (Ind)	1292
OSMEÑA, Mary Joyce (Ind)	7,316
YAPHA, Antonio Jr. (PDSP)	126,734
Vice Governor	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 11,074 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Clavel (PDSP)	131,424
SANCHEZ, Gregorio Jr. (Kampi)	337,018
Congressman (1st district)	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 1,739 precincts)	
ADLAWAN, Ricardo (Ind)	265
BOLOGAITA, Alex (Promdi)	252
CONCEPCION, Felipe (Ind)	145
GULLAS, Eduardo (Kampi)	61364
RAMA, Enrique (UNO)	5524
Congressman (2nd district)	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 1,775 precincts)	
ABINES, Crisologo (GO)	10620
CAMASURA, Franklin (Ind)	263
GARCIA, Pablo (Kampi)	85736
KINTANAR, Carmiano (Lakas/NPC)	39420
LOZADA, Jose Mari (Lakas-PMP-KBL)	66
Congressman (3rd district)	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 1,741 precincts)	
GARCIA, Pablo John (Kampi)	51906
YAPHA, Estrella (Lakas)	34444
Congressman (4th district)	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 1,639 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Celestino III (Lakas)	29805
SALIMBANGON, Benhur (Kampi)	38214
MARTINEZ, Edilito	238
Congressman (5th district)	
(COMELEC, as of 11:05 a.m.; 1,776 precincts)	
DURANO, Ramon VI (NPC)	89301
WAGAS, Gilbert (LP)	27343
Congressman (6th district)	
(C-Cimpel, as of 9 p.m., May 17; 1,140 of 2,377 precincts)	
SOON-RUIZ, Nerissa (Kampi)	60,936
QUISUMBING, Gabriel Luis (Lakas)	58,179
DE LA SERANA, Vicente (Ind)	12731
CEBU CITY	
Congressman (1st District)	
(C-Cimpel, as of 9:08 p.m., May 17; 1,183 precincts)	
DEL MAR, Raul (Lakas-BOPK)	94,790
VILLARIN, Florencio (GO)	5,408
ARENASA, Juan (Ind)	651
Congressman (2nd District)	
(COMELEC, as of 9:08 p.m., May 17; 1,830 precincts)	
CUENCO, Antonio (Lakas-BOPK)	14,291
GUARDO, Jonathan (GO)	11,332
Mayor	
(COMELEC, as of 9:08 p.m., May 17; 3,013 precincts)	
OSMEÑA, Tomas (BOPK)	16,635
DELOS SANTOS, Mary Ann (GO)	9,228
Vice Mayor	
(COMELEC, as of 9:08 p.m., May 17; 3,013 precincts)	
GARCIA, Raymond Alvin N. (Uno-Kusog)	7,510
RAMA, Michael L. (BOPK-Lakas-CMD)	17,774
MANDAUE CITY	
Mayor (COMELEC, as of 5 p.m.; 504 of 755 precincts)	
OUANO, Thadeo Jovito (Lakas/Kampi)	30110
CORTES, Jonas (PDSP)	40915
Vice-Mayor	
BERCEDE, Glenn O. (PDSP)	31849
FORTUNA, Carlo Ponlico C. (Lakas-CMD/Kampi)	39105
LAPU-LAPU CITY	
(COMELEC, as of 3 p.m.; 635 precincts)	
Mayor	
RADAZA, Arturo (Lakas)	44303
PATALINJUG, Norma (Kampi)	34773
Vice-Mayor	
AMORES, Mario Y. (Lakas-CMD)	40738
ESPEDIDO, Eugene S. (Kampi)	32924

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Congressman (2nd DISTRICT)	
(COMELEC, 323 of 348 precincts)	
ANIÑON, Raul Silorio	771
ARNAIZ, George P.	100,498
MONTAÑO, Ramon E.	18,938

EASTERN VISAYAS

LEYTE

ORMOC CITY (COMELEC)	
Mayor	
CODILLA, Eric (Lakas)	37289
YRASTORZA, Gregorio (NPC)	24796
Vice-Mayor	
APARIS, Nepomuceno (Lakas-CMD)	43385
GUATLO, Celsa (NPC)	11134

NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON

Congressman (2nd district)	
ARTACHO, Mario Gerardo (LP)	178
BIOCO, Roderico (Kampi)	35211
GALARIO, Glen (Kampi)	34706
GUINGONA, Teofisto III (NPC/UNO)	60022
TABIOS, Ernesto (Ind)	16430

LANAO DEL NORTE

Governor (Namfrel as of 2:50 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Mohammad Khalid (Lakas)	34647
RIZALDA, Rafael (Kampi)	26034
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 2:50 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Imelda (Lakas)	40910
BACAREZA, Angelique (Kampi)	44170
ZARAGOZA, Leo (LP)	9857
BORJA, Uriel (Ind)	413
BELMONTE, Vicente (GO)	57169
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 2:50 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Abdullah	29239
MANGOTARA, Abdullah	10329
DIMAPORO, Marcos	145

DAVAO

DAVAO DEL SUR

DAVAO CITY	
Congressman (1st District)	
(Namfrel as of 9 am)	
MABILOG, Edgar (Ind)	2325
MILLENDEZ, Anacleto (Ind)	2939
NOGRALES, Prospero (Lakas)	47298
Congressman (2nd District)	
(Namfrel as of 9 am)	
APORTADERA, Abelardo Jr. (LP)	16136
BATUCAN, Joel (Ind)	235
DUREZA, Jimmy (PDSP)	24167
GARCIA, Vincent (NPC)	37567
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Namfrel as of 9 am)	
DE GUZMAN, Benjamin (LDP)	10259
LOPEZ, Rene Elias (NPC)	15555
RODRIGUEZ, Sonja (Kampi)	9396
UNGAB, Isidro (PDP Laban)	23908
Mayor (Namfrel as of 9 am)	
DUTERTE, Rodrigo (PDP-Laban)	210051
JOAQUIN, Justinian (Ind)	1010
MANTILLA, Teodoro (Ind)	1063
SATERA, Henry (Ind)	380
SULAMIN, Rodrigo (Ind)	580

SOCCSKSARGEN

SULTAN KUDARAT

COTABATO CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 7 am, 223 out of 564)	
SEMA, Muslimin (Lakas)	22528
JULIANO, Estrellita Neng (PMP)	5787
DILANGALEN, Bai Sendig (NPC)	15332

CARAGA

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Governor	
(Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
BARBERS, Robert Ace (Lakas)	77659
NAPULI, Felimon (Partido Padajon Surigao)	24074
ORQUINA, Danilo (Kampi)	31418
VILLAR, Sirnante (Ind)	171
Vice Governor (Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
CATRE, Noel (Lakas)	46960
CONGRESO, Lauris (Partido Padajon Surigao)	1223
ECLEO, Alan (NPC)	37952
NAVARRO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	23625
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
MATUGAS, Francisco (Kampi)	28924
NAVARRO, Wenelisa (Ind)	10784
RAVELO, Marino (UNO)	151
TARUC, Dominador (Ind)	10089
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
ANDANAR, Wencelito (Kampi)	5224
BARBERS, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)	29659
LAGO, Pepito (UNO)	3641
PRESTON, Michael (Ind)	15
RAFOLS, Roldan (Ind)	30
ROMARATE, Guillermo Jr. (Partido Padajon Surigao)	54846
SURIGAO CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
CASURRA, Alfonso (Ind)	28924
MATUGAS, Ernesto (Partido Padajon Surigao)	27570
Vice Mayor (Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
NAVARRO, Benjamin	19954
SERING, Rico	33943

Compiled by Inquirer Northern Luzon: Estanislao Caldez, Ben Moses Ebreo, Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr., Desiree Caluza, Elmer Kristian Dauigoy, Cristina Arzadon, Juliet Cataluña, Gabriel Cardinoza; Inquirer Central Luzon Bureau: Cesar Villa, Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes, Anselmo Roque; Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau: Delfin Mallari Jr., Marlon Luistro, Jun Virola, Romulo Ponte, Robert Bagalay, Ephraim Aguilar, Madonna Virola, Ezren Dometita, Ma. Chielu Abarquez, Jason Opeña, Annielyn Baleza; Inquirer Visayas Bureau: Nestor Burgos Jr., Hazel Villa, Ma. Diosa Labiste, Carla Gomez, Romy Amarado, Jhunnex Napallacan, Bernadette Parco, Felipe Celino, Cyrain Cabuenas, Grace Pecaoco, Marvi Benedicto, Farrah Tura, Alexandra Jaca; Inquirer Mindanao Bureau: Grace Cantal-Albasin, Alvin Añonuevo, Nash Maulana, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase, Ferdinand Zuasola, Dondon Dinoy, Aquiles Zonio, Joselle Badilla, Jeoffrey Maitem, Franklin Caliguid, Dominador Taruc, Rolando Pinsoy, Richel Umel; Inquirer Research: Cyril Bonabente, Lawrence De Guzman, Chona Galang, Maricar Tolosa

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Tyro beats Espina patriarch in Biliran

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Naval, Biliran

THE PATRIARCH OF THE RULING ESPINA clan in Biliran suffered a stinging defeat in the hands of a political neophyte during the May 14 elections.

Gerardo S. Espina Sr., 72, had served three consecutive terms as congressman of the province's lone district from 1995 to 2004. In his last term, he served as chair of the powerful Commission on Appointments.

Espina tried to recover his post as a candidate of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) after a transitory term as mayor of the capital town of Naval. Instead, he was soundly beaten by an articulate lawyer who is even younger than his 36-year-old youngest child, Biliran Rep. Gerardo J. Espina Jr.

Lawyer Glenn A. Chong, 32, of the Liberal Party (LP), garnered a total of 36,097 votes while Espina got 30,356, for a winning margin of 5,741. He was proclaimed winner of the congressional contest by the provincial Commission on Elections on Wednesday afternoon.

Chong is the scion of a Chinese-Filipino family that runs a chain of business establishments, including a construction firm and the biggest grocery in Biliran.

An honor student during his elementary and high school years, Chong is also a certified public accountant. He graduated cum laude from the College of Law of the University of San Carlos in Cebu. As a law student, he had won prizes in writing and public speaking contests.

NAVAL Mayor-elect Susan Velasquez-Parilla and Biliran Congressman-elect Glenn A. Chong (both at the center) with some of their supporters after Chong's proclamation last Wednesday. BILIRANISLAND.COM

Only loser

Espina Sr. was the only loser among the four Espina family members who ran for different positions.

Dr. Rogelio J. Espina (Lakas-CMD), was reelected governor with 43,007 votes, beating lawyer Ruben L. Almadro of LP, who garnered only 19,415.

The governor's twin brother, Rodolfo J. Espina, of Kampi was reelected mayor of Kawayan town. Their sister, Roselyn Espina-Paras (Kampi) was reelected councilor of Naval.

Congressman Espina Jr. gave way to his father and did not run for any position.

Although only the patriarch lost in the election, the Espina family lost two politically strategic positions—congressman of Biliran and mayor of Naval.

The mayoral contest in Naval was won by Susan Velasquez-Parilla, widow of the late former Gov. Danilo Parilla who was assassinated in Cebu City last year. She won over Brigido Caneja III, a long-time Espina ally.

Parilla is the only child of former Naval Mayor Arturo Velasquez and former Naval Vice Mayor Catalina Velasquez.

The Espina dynasty was relatively secure in their rule until September 7 last year. That day, former Governor Parilla, who nearly defeated Espina Sr. in the 2004 mayoral election, was killed by a known Espina bodyguard as he was disembarking from a boat at the Cebu pier.

The suspect, Gene Corpin, is now in jail. The case is now on trial at a Cebu court.

A murder undid it

The murder enraged Biliranons from all walks of life and evolved a social movement that was determined to resist the Espinas—the local version of the anti-Marcos movement in the wake of the Aquino assassination in 1983, but this time with better communication channels and facilities.

A nebulous group called the Konsensya, supported by volunteer efforts and contributions locally and from expatriate Biliranons, started communicating with each other mostly through cellular phones, text messaging, and e-mails, blogs and websites in the Internet. They began to chronicle and expose the alleged excesses, lavish lifestyles and corrupt practices of the Espinas.

The Konsensya members, mostly unidentified and known only by their aliases, poured out their sentiments related to the death of Parilla and their exposés about the Espinas in the blogs section of www.biliranisland.com, in the guestbook of the Hometown Naval website, and in the occasional issues of a newsletter, The Biliran Clarion.

Leader

Chong is a leader and mover of the group and a column writer in the Clarion. He co-anchored, with three other members, an anti-Espina radio program in the local Radyo Natin station and later in a Cebu radio station.

The information generated by the Konsensya, mainly from the Internet, became fodder for the opposition candidates during their campaign rallies in barangays around the province. Most of the charges they raised were virtually ignored by the Espina camp.

Chong was traumatized and politicized by the Parilla assassination, and this made him decide to fight the Espina dynasty. The resolve was shared by many other Konsensya members.

He also started gathering data and documents that led to the filing of cases in the Ombudsman-Visayas against certain members of the Espina family. The cases included two against Governor Espina—one for alleged overpricing of still unused hospital equipment and the other for an allegedly "ghost" hospital worth P21 million.

When the election season came, Chong became the logical nominee of the local opposition to run for congressman, a challenge that he accepted. The rest is history.

Espina Sr. was the only loser among the four Espina family members who ran for different positions.

Outstanding mother is a woman of strength and faith

By Cyrain Cabueñas
Borongan, Samar

TRIALS can bring out the worst or the best in people.

Some face difficulties and wither along the way while others face the same circumstances and come out as victors.

Rebecca O. Tiusonco, 59, is one of the few persons who has faced life's bitter challenges and surmounted great obstacles. Married to a businessman and coming from a distinguished family herself, she chose to become a housewife despite her degrees from the University of the Philippines.

REBECCA TIUSONCO chose to become a housewife despite her degrees. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I had a modest dream," she said. "All I wanted was to become a devoted wife and loving mother. I could never ask for more having a responsible husband and three doting children."

However, her dream was cut short when her husband met a vehicular accident that left him immobile for about 15 years till his death.

"My world suddenly turned upside down. With three children to raise and a husband in coma, I realized that life was not an endless ball, it was a total nightmare," Rebecca recalled.

For almost a year, she could not accept her husband's fate and she could not go to Church with a peaceful disposition.

"I was bitter and I almost lost my faith in God," she said.

Rebecca attributed her focus and resolve to three persons: former Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso, her cousin Bishop Emeritus of Catarman Angel Hobayan and her younger brother Fr. Agustin Opalalic Jr.

"Had it not been for their spiritual guidance, I am sure I wouldn't have been able to recover."

She was at first at a loss, finding ways to maintain her husband's life-support system and finance her children's education.

"My heart was into teaching but I could not do so because I had to be with my kids and be at my husband's side," she says.

Her last resort was to stay at home and manage her husband's hardware. Eventually, her resiliency and determination paid off.

She was able to send her three children to prestigious schools. In turn, her children made her proud by becoming honor students and scholars. Her daughter Badjie now works in a bank in Manila. Her second child Sidney manages their business. And her youngest son TJ is an associate dean at UP Diliman and is pursuing his MBA in Japan.

Rebecca's unswerving loyalty to her husband was also laudable. She could have given him up right away since he had to rely on a life-support system, but she took care of him for 15 years till his last breath.

After her husband's death in 2002, Rebecca started joining religious and civic organizations to while away her time. What started as a pastime became an advocacy.

"Before I got married, it has always been my dream to be able to make a difference in my own little way given the chance and resources," she said.

Since then, Rebecca has espoused environmental causes, women empowerment, and spearheaded support system for victims of calamities.

Proofs of her resolve to transcend one's problems and her inspiring attitude to make a difference are her countless awards and plaques of appreciation both local and national.

She currently serves as president and adviser to the local chapter of Rotary Club, Girl Scouts of the Philippines and Borongan Chamber of Commerce.

Together with 13 other mothers throughout the Philippines, she recently received the Ulirang Ina award, a prestigious award given to outstanding Filipino Mothers of significant achievement in their field of endeavor.

Rebeca's son Sidney says his mom is a woman of strength and faith.

"What she went through as a wife and a mother was not easy," he says.

"Her unconditional love will never be quantified and with or without recognition, we will always be proud to claim that she's our mother," he adds.

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MAY 18

10:00 am - 12:00 nn	Opening Ceremonies with Mascot & Costume Parade
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fashion Show by Abhylyn
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee.
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo

MAY 19

12:00 nn - 12:30 pm	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia.
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Kino Kids Art
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Arts and Crafts Workshop
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Kino Kids Art
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Swimming for Beginners by WS Sports
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Do-It-Yourself Segment by Sweet Life hosted by Wilma Doesnt and Lucy Torres

MAY 20

10:00 am - 11:00 pm	E-Aji Dance Craze / Dress-Up Your Pancake Contest by Magnolia Pancake Plus
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Alaska Power Camp
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Magnolia's My Moms Best Pambaon Recipe
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Moms Segment by Marilyn Reynes, Sherilyn Reyes and Lani Mercado
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia

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La Salle five edges FEU; Jose Rizal U nips Letran

By Romina Austria

LA SALLE RELIED ON PERFECT FREE-THROW shooting in the stretch to move closer to a quarterfinal slot after it edged Far Eastern University, 82-76, yesterday in the FilOil-Flying V Pre-season Invitational Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Trailing most of the way, Tyrone Tang and Marko Batricevik connected from outside and allowed the Green Archers to turn a 64-58 deficit at the end of three periods into a 78-73 lead with only 26.2 seconds to play.

After the Tamaraws missed twice from the three-point area and Ricardo Cawaling muffed two free throws, JV Casio converted both his charity shots to increase the lead to 80-73.

La Salle paces Group B at 3-1 while FEU absorbed its first loss in three games in Group A.

In the opening match, Sean Christopher Co exploded with 20 points to carry Mapua to an 83-76 victory over the University of the Philippines. Mapua leveled its mark to 2-2 while UP remained winless in three starts.

National University joined De La Salle on top of Group B, slipping past Perpetual Help, 78-75, in the third game.

In the nightcap, Jose Rizal U nipped Letran, 78-76.

The Bulldogs scored their third win in four matches while handing the Altas a 1-2 record.

The scores:

First Game

MAPUA 83—Co 20, Dela Peña 14, Pascual N. 12, Sumalinog 8, Guillermo 8, Cornejo 6, Acosta 5, Pascual J. 4, Mazo 2, Banal 2, Cinco 2, Palomique 0.

UP 76—Serioso 13, Co 13, Rivera 10, Marforio 8, Lopez 7, Sison 6, De Asis 6, Reyes 5, Gamboa 2, Hipolito 2, Epres 2, Dela Victoria 0, Rosales 0.

Quarters: 23-25; 40-44; 64-62; 83-76

Second Game

LA SALLE 82—Tang 14, Batricevik 12, Casio 11, Maelrhofer 11, Lee 10, Villanueva 8, Co 7, Mangahas J. 7, Atkins 2, Ilad 0, Cua 0.

FEU 76—Cawaling 18, Sanga 11, Gerilla 8, Barachael 8, Adolfo 8, Baroca 7, Fernandez 6, Ramos 4, Reyes 3, Cervantes 3.

Quarters: 15-20; 42-48; 58-64; 82-76

Third Game

NU 78—Fernandez 24, Catamora 13, Aguilar 12, Salbado 8, Jahnke 7, Asoro 4, Malagueño 3, Ponferrada 2, Lingao 2, Terso 0, Cabaluna 0, Berry 0, Luy 0, Boloran 0.

PERPETUAL 75—Reyes 19, Kong 13, Lee 9, Balboa 7, Salonga 6, Inyon 6, Galabun 3, Manuel 3, Llaz 3, Febrian 2.

Quarters: 17-8; 35-39; 54-56; 78-75

Red Bull trashes Welcoat

Bulls greet return of Guiao with victory

CYRUS Baguio of Red Bull stretches for a shot against the defense of Welcoat center Jay-R Reyes.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TODAY (*Urios Gym, Butuan City*)
6 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

YENG GUIAO WAS A LITTLE BIT UNeasy coaching his team for the first time in 45 days.

Red Bull, however, soothed Guiao's nerves by demolishing the Welcoat Dragons with relative ease, 103-81, last night in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup.

The Bulls only needed two quarters to crush the Dragons with James Penny in the lead and backup efforts of Mike Hrabak, Cyrus Baguio and Carlo Sharma.

"I was worried because I was out of touch from coaching," said Guiao, who missed the Bulls' last seven games due to a successful reelection campaign for the vice governor's post in Pampanga.

But Guiao's presence on the bench somehow motivated his Bulls to come out razor-sharp right from the opening buzzer on the way to closing in on an automatic semifinal seat.

Penny joined forces with Mike Hrabak and Cyrus Baguio in the first quarter as they accounted for all but two of Red Bull's 25 points that allowed the Bulls to build a 13-point lead in the opening minutes.

The Bulls picked up their 10th victory after 15 games as Penny completely took over in the third period for a 77-53 Red Bull lead.

Penny had 31 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who are now at solo second, just a game behind pace-setter Barangay Ginebra (10-4). The Dragons dropped to 3-12.

Rosell Ellis tallied 29 points and Willie Miller added 26 as Alaska survived a last-ditch rally by Purefoods to prevail, 104-92, in the second game.

The win pushed the Aces in a tie with the Bulls at second spot while the TJ Hotdogs absorbed their 11th defeat against five victories.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 103—Penny 31, Sharma 18, Fonacier 11, Najorda 8, Baguio 8, Hrabak 8, Bugia 7, Alvarez 6, Robinson 6, Ybañez 0, Cruz 0, Valenzuela 0.

WELCOAT 81—White 14, Compton 14, Reyes 14, Gelig 10, Ibañes 9, Wainwright 7, Sta. Maria 6, Mente 5, Cabatu 2, Baguion 0, Lao 0.

Quarters: 25-12, 48-30, 77-53, 103-81.

Second Game

ALASKA 104—Ellis 29, Miller 26, Cariaso 17, Thoss 11, Belasco 9, Ferriols 6, Hugnatan 2, Laure 2, Cortez 2.

PUREFOODS 92—Chandler 36, R. Yap 15, J. Yap 14, Simon 8, Yee 8, Salvador 7, Evangelista 2, Camaso 2, Artadi 0, Castillo 0.

Quarters: 22-25, 49-37, 83-70, 104-92

Realtors lead Jr PBA winners

MANUEL DEL PEÑA AND EDWIN TAPUCAR scored 11 points apiece as Batang Sta. Lucia-Antipolo II routed Batang Ginebra-Pateros, 70-47, yesterday in the Burlington-Batang PBA Basketball League at the Araneta Coliseum. It was the first win in two games by the Batang Realtors in Group A while dealing the Batang Kings, led by Jaymar Calumot, their second straight loss. Batang Talk 'N Text-Quezon City dumped Batang Coca-Cola-HRCSD, 116-11, in the other game. In other Division 2 games held at the San Juan gym Thursday, Batang Red Bull-San Juan pounced on Batang San Miguel-Caloocan II, 59-35.

Bibat 4 off Malay Open pace

ASIAN GAMES BRONZE MEDALLIST MICHAEL Bibat shot a four-over-par 74 and remained four strokes off Amirban Lahiri of India halfway through the 105th Malaysian Amateur Open at the Nexus Golf Resort Karambunai in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah yesterday. But the other RP team members limped home with atrocious scores. Miko Alejandro ballooned to a 77 after an opening 72. The 19-year-old Lahiri, who had 69 Thursday, matched Bibat's round. Jay Bayron, spearhead of the Ictsi team, also made a 74 and tied Alejandro at 149 while Ferdie Aunzo, winner of last week's Sabah Open, fought back with a 73 (150).

World Slasher launched today

THE TRADITIONAL PRESS LUNCHEON FOR THE world's biggest cockfighting event, the 2007 World Slasher Invitational 8-cock derby, is set today at the Araneta Coliseum Gazebo. This year's stellar field of foreign participants from Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Canada, Guam, Australia and the United States will pit their cockfighting prowess against the country's top gamefowl breeders in the "Olympics of Cockfighting" slated May 22, 24 and 26 at the Big Dome. The second leg of the bi-annual derby features, among others, former World Slasher champs Roger Roberts, Ray Alexander and Chris Nesmith as well as Zosimo Antivo, Vince Cuyugan, Dr. Henry Fajardo, Hai Ha of Vietnam, Noriaki Morita of Japan and Thomas Mischkus of Germany.

PSC to send more athletes to foreign training

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AFTER PRONOUNCING MONEY SHORTage, the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday increased the number of national athletes—from 29 to 56—that will train in China and other parts of the world for next year's Olympic campaign.

While the date of departure for the athletes from 14 national sports associations has yet to be announced, PSC chief Butch Ramirez expressed confidence the needed funds would be available.

Ramirez said the First Gentleman Foundation would be able to honor its commitment to raise P250 million to bankroll the national Olympic training program despite the recent hospitalization of the President's husband.

Of the 14 NSAs, diving, weightlifting, gymnastic and wushu are bound for China, while the rest will be sent to the United States and Europe.

Diving submitted the names of eight athletes for the China training: Southeast Asian Games triple gold winner Shiela Mae Perez and fellow gold medalist Niño Carog, Jaime Asok, Rexel Ryan Fabriga, Kevin Kong and Zardo Domenios. Joining them are Fil-Canadian twins Dhayna and Nicole Lemay.

Swimming, wushu, taekwondo and boxing each had six in the PSC list, while fencing proposed five and athletics and shooting had four in the roster.

Teenage long distance swimmer Ryan Arabejo was one of those who were added to the original list after making the Olympic qualifying during his stint in Australia.

He will be joined by US-based tankers Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina, James Walsh, Jackie Pangilinan and Erica Totten.

Pictorials and all, this Younghusband is still married to football

By Jasmine W. Payo

FASHION PICTORIALS, MAGAZINE INTERviews and an appointment with a dermatologist were on schedule for this particular day.

The list is quite a departure from his usual calendar, said Filipino-Briton football player James Younghusband.

"Back in England, I wake up at about eight o' clock and get ready for training," he shared. "I train for about two hours, have lunch and do other things after that like practicing free kicks, working on my weaknesses. And then I just spend the day relaxing really."

A whirlwind of activities away from the pitch, however, have recently drawn Younghusband and his younger brother Philip to appointments in other fields.

Banking on their striking looks and athletic skills, the sibling sensation of local football had just inked an exclusive three-year multi-million contract with PR Asia, a regional publicity and artiste network.

It is a contract that, among others, requires him to get all dressed up.

"I'm enjoying it, it's a good experience," Younghusband said of his first modeling stint.

The 6-foot-2 midfielder knows the move may appear a page torn off David Beckham's football career autobiography. And even his football-comes-first declarations sound Beckham-ish.

"I'll never give up football," he vowed. "Football will always be my number one passion. I love doing it. I'll never stop doing it."

And his enthusiasm remains intact even when the 20-year-old openly tackles the touchy issue on the British invasion of the national team.

"There's about seven or eight of us, which isn't many really," Younghusband pointed out. "It's a good mixture in the team. We're not foreigners. We're still Filipinos playing for the national team. I think it helps in a way. We bring experience from other countries like America and Europe. We all have different types of football, so we're sharing the experience. I think it works out quite well."

"In England, football is more physical, more contact, you got to get the ball quickly," he says. "Here it's more technical, it's more passing. Maybe it's because English football has always been based around passion. All the players want to win. But I think with just a little more organization and support, more promotional work, football can be big here."

It's the same kind of competitive spirit Younghusband hopes to rub off on the local players again in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

"We have an opportunity to play better," says Younghusband, who has been seeing action in the semi-pro AFC Wimbledon in London apart from donning the Philippine colors during the 2005 SEA Games and the 2007 Asean Championship.

"I can't wait to join the national team again," he says. "It's just a shame we don't have more games. It's kind of like we play one tournament and then wait for a long time for another. It might be nice just to have a tournament after a tournament. That will make everyone better as well."

Just like any sport, Younghusband also emphasizes the importance of exposing local kids to football at an early age.

"My dad got me into football, he was a big football fan himself," said Younghusband, son of the late Philip and Susan Placer, who hails from Malabon. "From a young age, around four or five, my brother and I always played together. We can be very competitive but in a friendly way. We love football. It's something we've done for a long, long time."

And true enough, when the bright camera lights fade, Younghusband quickly shifts his focus back on his real goal.

"I can't wait for the SEA Games really," he said. "Playing for the national team made me even more Filipino. My best moment has always been representing the Philippines."

YOUNGHUSBAND (left) in action

YOUNGHUSBAND: I love football

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, through its funds intends to apply the sum of **P6,130,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Installation of two (2) new Passenger type Elevators denominated as Contract No. Elev.-01. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The MWSS now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Installation of two (2) new Passenger type Elevators. Delivery and installation of the GOODS including testing, commissioning, completion and turn-over is required within **two hundred forty (240) calendar days** from the receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Eligible Biders as enumerated under Clause IB 5.1 of the ITB. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. starting May 25, 2007.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P3,000.00. The method of payment will be in Cash or Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **MWSS** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 14, 2007** at 10:00 A.m. at the Senior Deputy Administrator's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **June 28, 2007** not later than 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
    - a. Cash, Manager's Check or Stand By Letter of Credit in the amount of P65,000.00
    - b. Bank Guarantee in the amount of P97,500.00
8. Bid opening shall be on **June 28, 2007** at 2:30 P.M. at the Senior Deputy Administrator's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Administrator Lorenzo H. Jamora
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
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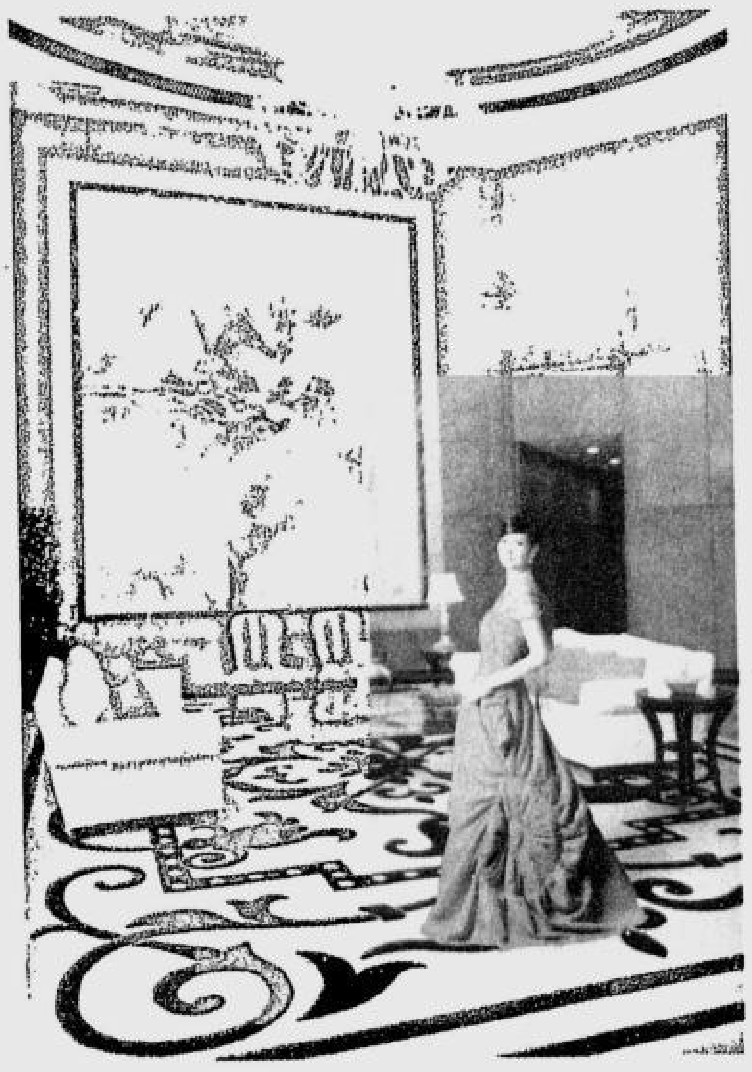

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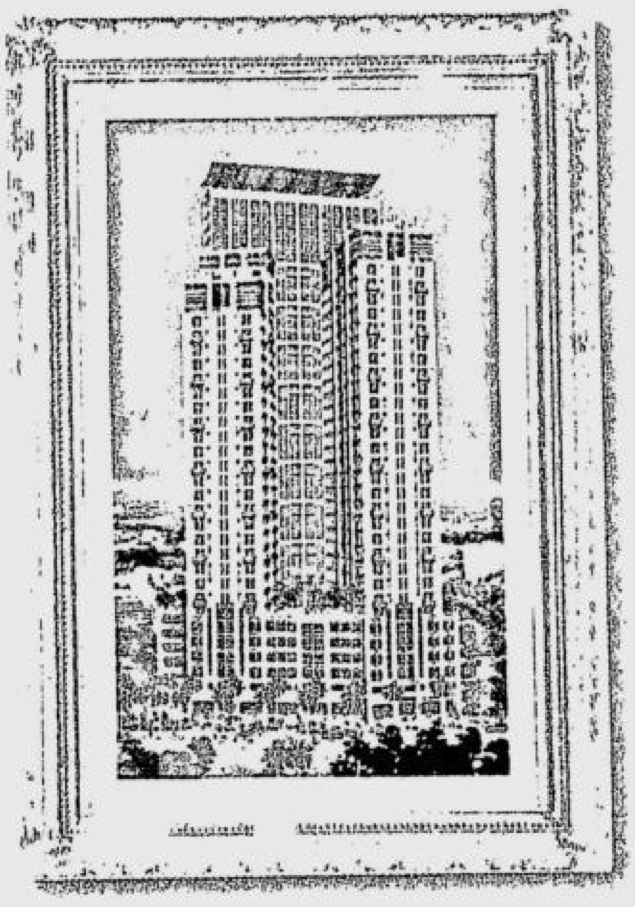

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Family wounded in Quezon City ambush

Cops rule out robbery as motive in attack by armed men on motor bikes

QUIZON ARRESTED RODEL ROTONI

Rowell Quizon, grandson of comedian Dolphy, is shown after his arrest by National Bureau of Investigation operatives yesterday. Quizon, who is now detained at the NBI headquarters in Manila, has been linked to the killing of Jeffrey Vergara. ***(Story on Page A22)***

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESSman, his wife and their 4-year-old son were injured in an ambush by four men reportedly carrying automatic rifles yesterday afternoon in Quezon City.

Quezon City Police District (QCPD) investigators counted at least 21 bullet holes that hit the white Nissan Patrol (OBB-888) driven by Julio Sin Son, 33, reportedly the owner of Tri-Mark Distributors Company, of Vicmar Compound in Baesa, Quezon City. Most of the bullet holes were found on the vehicle's windshield.

Though wounded, the victim was able to drive his wife Karen and son Julian, who were also hit, to the St. Luke's Medical Center on E. Rodriguez Avenue from Roosevelt Avenue.

Police reports showed that the attack happened at around 3 p.m. in front of Son's office at 99 Roosevelt Avenue.

The victims' car had just come out of the office gates when four suspects on board two motorcycles opened fire. Son managed to duck after being hit, and immediately drove away.

Karen reportedly sustained a wound in the head. Julio and his son were grazed by bullets.

Investigators ruled out robbery as a motive for the ambush, saying that if the suspects intended to rob the victims, they would not have shot at the vehicle as soon as it got out of the gate.

The QCPD has launched a hunt for the four suspects, two of whom were aboard a red Kawazaki motorcycle, according to witnesses. None of the witnesses, however, was able to get the license plate of the suspects' getaway vehicles.

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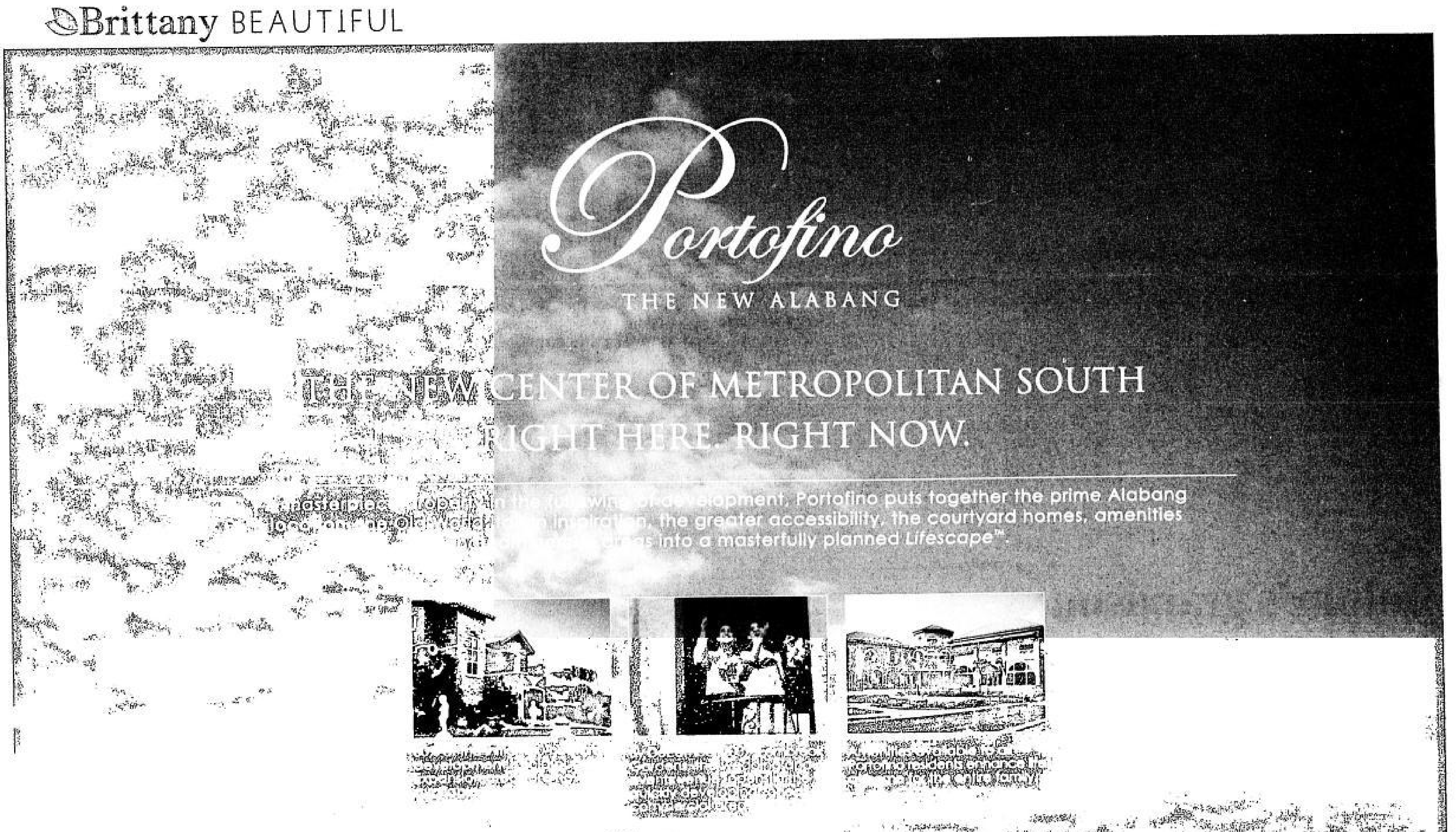

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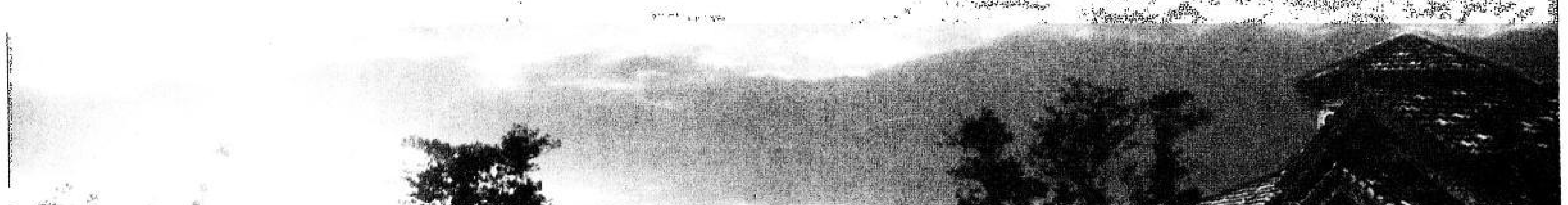

RUDY ESPERAS
GUNIGUNDO

ROGER MARGALLO
EJERCITO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
AGUILAR

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
FERNANDO

INQUIRER PHOTO
GATCHALIAN

Metro Manila residents reelect incumbent mayors

By the Metro staff and volunteers

MARIDES FERNANDO AND Joseph Victor Ejercito, incumbent mayors of Marikina City and San Juan, respectively, were proclaimed runaway winners in the May 14 mid-term polls.

Fernando, who was proclaimed winner at 7:48 p.m. Thursday, got 111,086 votes. Marion Andres, Fernando's running mate, received 99,187 votes.

Del de Guzman, with 44,136 votes, edged out Romeo Candazo of PMP for Marikina District 2 representative.

Marcelino Teodoro was elected representative of the city's District 1 with 32,574 votes.

In the municipality of San Juan, Ejercito won by a landslide with 39,339 votes, based on the Commission on Elections' official tally. He was proclaimed at about 1 a.m. yesterday. He ran against three independent candidates.

Incumbent Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, with 24,404 votes, trounced independent candidate Ericson Alcovendaz.

In Valenzuela City, two of the four sons of Chinese-Filipino businessman and "Plastics King" William Gatchalian were declared winners by the board of election canvassers.

Rexlon, who defeated city councilor Eddie Lozada, was proclaimed Thursday night as representative of the city's first district. Sherwin, who was seeking a second term as mayor, was declared winner yesterday morning over rival Rep. Jose Emmanuel "Bobbit" Carlos.

Weslie, another Gatchalian brother, lost to Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. in the race for representative of the city's second district. The fate of another son, Kenneth, a nominee of the Anak party-list group, had yet to be known.

The situation had been tense since Tuesday when the Gatchalians were accused of cheating by the camp of Carlos.

The official Comelec tally showed Sherwin getting 82,322 votes, while Carlos had 76,650.

Vergel "Nene" Aguilar was proclaimed mayor of Las Piñas City, Thursday after getting 99 percent of the votes. Aguilar's team, including his councilors and Vice Mayor Henry Medina also won, along with Rep. Cynthia Villar.

In Pateros, cheering supporters celebrated the winning of Genuine Opposition bets Joey Medina, mayor; Jojo Sanchez, vice mayor; and Lani Cayetano, representative. Lani is the wife of GO senatorial candidate Allan Peter Cayetano.

VILLAR
ROGER MARGALLO

Close fight in Munti between Biazon, Puno

By Julie M. Aurelio

WHILE THE FRENZIED CROWD screamed "*Di talo!* Dong Puno!" (Not a loser) behind his back, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon merely shrugged off the taunts.

On Thursday night, tempers rose when supporters of former TV host Ricardo Puno and Biazon's son, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon, gathered side by side at the City Hall public square to keep an eye on the canvassing of election returns.

Ruffy is running for reelection, waging a close battle against Puno, who belongs to the Team Fresnedi slate.

The Commission on Elections tally as of press time yesterday listed 20,530 votes for Biazon and 20,637 for Puno. Earlier quick counts by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections showed Biazon leading over the former TV host.

The older Biazon said he was there to keep an eye on the proceedings as his son's poll watcher.

"We received information that armed men would come here tonight to scare the crowd," the senator told the INQUIRER.

In a text message, his son added: "Supposedly, the other side would create a scenario so that tension would escalate, instigating a clash between supporters."

Ruffy said the incident would then cause a change in the venue of the canvassing. "The change is an opportunity for cheating," he added.

But for all the opposition camp's worries, the expected mob never came.

Neither did key figures from the administration camp, such as mayoral candidate Lor Fresnedi nor Puno himself, made an appearance at the unexpected rally.

At around 9 p.m., members of the local civil disturbance management unit began to form in front of the People's Center after the crowd began chanting Puno's name.

Armed with sticks and shields, the policemen stood ready to push back the challenger's supporters.

Puno's camp yesterday said they would ask the Comelec to revoke Namfrel's accreditation, alleging that the poll watchdog showed its bias by including "highly questionable election returns in its unofficial tally."

The Namfrel, it added, "miserably failed to live up to its mandate of remaining completely nonpartisan and free."

OBITUARIES

Yoyoy says goodbye

SINGER and comedian Roman "Yoyoy" Villame died of cardio-pulmonary arrest yesterday. Villame died at around 2:05 p.m, nearly five hours after being brought to the hospital. A former councilor of Las Piñas City, Villame was a former jeepney and bus driver from Bohol and is best known for his Tagalog and Visayan novelty songs.

Julie M. Aurelio

'Kuya Cesar' signs off

VETERAN broadcaster Cesar "Kuya Cesar" Nucum, 69, passed away Thursday night due to cardiac arrest, ABS-CBN News reported. Until his death, Kuya Cesar, of Candaba, Pampanga, hosted two dzMM radio talk shows on Sundays. There will be a viewing of his body on Monday at the ABS-CBN building on Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City.

Hernandez; 63

RENE Hernandez, 63, son of the late nationalist writer Amado V. Hernandez and zarzuela queen Atang de la Rama, died on May 15 of cardiac arrest. He will be buried beside his parents at 2 p.m. today at the North Cemetery in Manila after a Mass at 538 Cavite Street, Gagalangin Street, Tondo.

Batangas incident: PNP chief doesn't care

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE BURNING OF A SCHOOL BUILDING in Batangas that killed a teacher and a poll watcher was one of the worst election-related incidents not only in the Philippines but in all democratic countries that hold elections.

What makes the incident more shocking was that policemen, who were supposed to safeguard life and property, were allegedly the perpetrators.

After pointing to communist rebels as the culprits, the Philippine National Police (PNP) later admitted that its own members could be involved in the dastardly crime.

In a decent society like Japan, the police leadership would have resigned en masse over the incident, some of them even commit hara-kiri.

But not Director General Oscar Calderon, the PNP chief. You don't see him feel sorry about the incident. You don't even know whether he gives a damn or not.

What he cares about probably is whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo will still retain him after that Batangas incident, which is most likely since they're close relatives.

Anyway, retirement is only a few months away.

* * *

Calderon is probably the PNP chief who is neither feared nor respected by subordinates, from what I heard.

He knows this, but he doesn't care at all what his underlings think about him.

Calderon lives from day to day as chief of a very inefficient police force.

* * *

Priest-turned-politician Eddie Panlilio should shut up if he can't prove his allegations that his closest rival, Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, committed fraud in the Pampanga gubernatorial race.

As of this writing, Pineda had widened her lead over Panlilio, with the incumbent, Gov. Mark Lapid, coming in third. (Panlilio was proclaimed the winner last night–Editor)

Panlilio should stop being a crybaby and admit that he lost in a fair fight. He is barking up the wrong tree since Pineda is not the incumbent. I'm not saying Lapid cheated, but the sitting official usually has the capability to cheat because of power and machinery.

* * *

Pangasinan governor-elect Amado Espino has gone a long way from his days as an officer of the PNP.

It was a long, hard climb for the captor of New People's Army chieftain Bernabe Buscayno, a.k.a. Kumander Dante.

Espino left the PNP with a heavy heart during first few months of the Erap administration. Things became very difficult for him in the service.

The 1974 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy was looked on with displeasure by newly elected President Erap on suspicion that he supported Erap's rival in the 1998 presidential election, Joe de Venecia.

The suspicion was unfounded as Espino was just doing his job as then PNP chief of Region 1 that includes Pangasinan.

Espino's crisis in those days turned out to be a blessing.

If he hadn't left the service would he have become a successful politician?

BI inmate's shooting hit

By Julie M. Aurelio

FOREIGN DETAINEES IN CAMP BAGONG Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City yesterday condemned the shooting incident involving a Fil-American inmate Thursday night, saying there was no need to kill him as the victim was seriously afflicted with tuberculosis.

Jessie James Brondil was shot by a jail guard after he allegedly went amok around 9:30 p.m. at the Bureau of Immigration detention facility. "He is not the kind who would be violent," said "Richard," a male detainee.

Initial investigation revealed that the victim, who was allegedly drunk, picked up a knife and began harassing the jail guards. Brondil was shot by duty guard Ricardo Irasere after the victim allegedly tried to stab him.

Brondil sustained a gunshot wound on the right chest, in the stomach, and on his right hand. Inmates began throwing objects at the prison's glass panels later in the evening after the shooting.

Supt. Enrico Paner, warden of the Bureau of Immigration jail, said the four guards involved in the incident—Walter Bladone, Richard Mateo, Donald Yu and Iresere—have already been relieved of their duties in the facility. He added that the shooting incident is still under investigation by authorities.

Dolphy's grandson nabbed for '06 slay

By Allison W. Lopez

A 24-YEAR-OLD GRANDSON OF comedy king Dolphy was arrested yesterday by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for allegedly killing a man in Tondo last year.

Rowell Quizon and two companions were the subject of a manhunt since the mauling incident on Dec. 4, 2006, that led to the death of Jeffrey Vergara, 23, of Pilapil Street, Tondo. Vergara died of multiple traumatic head injuries a day after being reportedly hit with a beer bottle by Quizon.

The suspects were initially charged with murder in the Manila Regional Trial Court. It was later reduced to homicide. An warrant was issued for his arrest on May 11.

NBI-National Capital Region executive officer Rommel Vallejo said they caught Rowell, son of Freddie Quizon, hiding in a store owned by a friend at midnight yesterday.

Quizon claimed Vergara's death was an accident. He said his group was passing by the victim's house when "an intoxicated" Vergara challenged him to a fight. Quizon said he only punched the victim, who could have hit his head on the pavement when he fell down.

With Delfin Fabrigas Jr.

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Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting May 21, 2007 from NAFC BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 23, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the Apacible Conference Room, Apacible Hall, DA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on May 30, 2007. Bids submitted after the scheduled time will not be accepted.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Floreliz P. Avellana at Tel. Nos. 929-82-34 and 920-39-92.

(Sgd.) ELMER G. ESTIANDAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – May 19 & 20, 2007)

ELEKSYON 2007

Partial Comelec and Namfrel counts compiled by Metro Staff* as of May 18, Friday

NCR

CALOOCAN CITY	
1351 precincts, Namfrel count as of 11:30 a.m.	
Congressman (1st district)	
ECHIVERRI, Ricojudge Javier (Lakas)	20592
GARRA, Leo (Kalipunan ng Bagong Caloocan)	3361
GUNDAYAO, Virgilio (Kapatiran Party/Ind)	1763
MALAPITAN, Oscar (NP/UNO)	40426
PLA, Nadine Marie Inez (Liping Kalookan)	2566
Congressman (2nd district)	
BAGUS, Tolentino (Lakas)	13745
CAJAYON, Maria Mitzi (LP)	23902
DIVINA, Nilo (Kampi)	17188
ERICE, Edgar (LP)	20548
MUÑOZ, Albert (Ind)	8545
Mayor	
ASISTIO, Luis (NPC)	60066
ASISTIO, Macario (Liping Kalookan)	5930
ECHIVERRI, Enrico (Lakas)	71618
MALONZO, Reynaldo (Kabaca)	21603
Vice-Mayor	
CAMAYO, Henry (Camayo)	40488
VALERA, Luis Tito (Kampi)	98549
VALLEGA	13518
LAS PIÑAS CITY	
Congressman (lone)	
VILLAR, Cynthia (NP) winner	
Mayor	
AGUILAR, Vergel (Ind) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
MEDINA, Henry (Lakas) winner	
MAKATI CITY	
Congressman (1st district)	
LOCSIN, Teodoro Jr. (PDP-Laban) winner	
Congressman (2nd district)	
BINAY, Mar-len Abigail (UNO/PDP-Laban) winner	
Mayor	
BINAY, Jejomar (PDP-Laban/UNO) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
MERCADO, Ernesto (PDP-Laban) winner	
MALABON-NAVOTAS	
1014 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.	
Congressman (lone)	
CINCO, Roberto (Ind)	230
FRANCISCO, Marilou (PMP)	16840
LACSON-NOEL, Josephine Veronique (NPC)	28330
SANDOVAL, Alvin (LP)	31479
MALABON	
Mayor	
ORETA, Canuto (Lakas) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
VICENCIO, Arnold (PMP/NPC/UNO) winner	
NAVOTAS	
Mayor	
TIANGCO, Tobias (Partido Navoteño)	36122
SANDOVAL, Ricky (Coalition of Administrative Political Party)	19940
MANDALUYONG CITY	
Congressman (lone)	
GONZALES, Neptali II (Lakas) winner	
Mayor	
ABALOS, Benhur (Lakas) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
STA. MARIA, Renato (Lakas) winner	
MANILA	
2636 out of 4903 precincts, Comelec as of 7 p.m	
Mayor	
ATIENZA, Arnold (LP)	66772
LACUNA, Danilo (PDP-Laban)	55275
LIM, Alfredo (UNO/KKK Laban)	95483
BACANI, Rodolfo (LP)	13456
Vice-Mayor	
ABAD, Onofre (Ind)	
BAGATSING, Don Ramon (LP)	42964
DOMAGOSO, Francisco Isko Moreno (PDP-Laban)	79468
HIZON, Joey (NP)	62677
BELGICA, Grepor (Ind)	7331
ORTEGA, Robert Jr. (Aksyon Demokratiko)	4890
ASTALS, Cita (Ind)	5161
MARIKINA CITY	
Congressman (1st district)	
TEODORO, Marcelino (Lakas) winner	
Congressman (2nd district)	
DE GUZMAN, Del (Lakas) winner	
Mayor	
FERNANDO, Ma. Lourdes (Lakas) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
ANDRES, Marion (Lakas) winner	
MUNTINLUPA CITY	
Comelec count as of ***	
Congressman	
BIAZON, Rozzano Rufino (LP)	20530
PUNO, Ricardo Jr. (NPC)	20637
Mayor	
FRESNEDI, Loretta (Lakas)	19683
MASANGKAY, Elizabeth (NPC)	3289
SAN Pedro, Aldrin (PMP/UNO)	19136
Vice-Mayor	
SIMUNDAC, Artemio (Lakas)	19198
CAYETANO, Rene Carl (Ind)	16766
MOLDEZ, Ricardo (NPC)	5127
PARAÑAQUE CITY	
398 out of 1219 precincts, Namfrel count	
Congressman (1st district)	
FERRER, Walfrido (PDP-Laban)	3260
VARONA, Netz (Ind)	43
YABUT, Fortunato (Ind)	175
ZIALCITA, Eduardo (Lakas)	11162
Congressman (2nd district)	
ARROYO, Benjamin (UNO/Ind)	3320
GOLEZ, Rollo (Ind)	19689
NERY, Jose Sr. (Ind)	215
ROSAL, Pacifico (Ind)	445
ROXAS, Romeo	11774
Mayor	
BERNABE, Florencio (Lakas)	30036
OLIVAREZ, Pablo (PMP/UNO)	18365
Vice-Mayor	
YLLANA, Andres Jose Jr. (Lakas)	21250
TAMBUNTING, Gustavio (Aksyon Demokratiko)	29907
PASAY CITY	
Namfrel count as of 5 p.m.	
Congressman (lone)	
CRISTOBAL, Jose (Ind)	328
ESPELETA, Saturnino (Ind)	670
PANALIGAN, Allan (Kampi)	36625
ROXAS, Jose Antonio (UNO/LDP)	37886
SANTOS, Ricardo (Lakas)	23542
YAP, Lorna (LP)	2453
Mayor	
DY, CONSUELO (Kampi)	50579
JOSEPH, Ralph (Ind)	140
MARCELO, Romulo Sr. (Ind)	190
NOEL-PENAFLOR, Francisco (Ind)	188
TRINIDAD, Neil (Ind)	37
TRINIDAD, Ramon (Ind)	207
TRINIDAD, Wenceslao (UNO/LDP)	55671
DY, CONSUELO (Kampi)	45316
TRINIDAD, Wenceslao (UNO/LDP)	49875
Vice-Mayor	
AGITO, Maximino (Ind)	266
ALCERA, Greg (LP)	16425
CALIXTO, Antonio (LDP)	58829
TOLENTINO, Arvin (Kampi)	27075
PASIG CITY	
Namfrel as of 4 p.m., May 17	
Congressman	
BATACAN, Ermeraldo (Reporma/Lapiang Manggagawa)	949
CARIÑO, Noel (NPC)	11395
MELENDRES, Fernando (Ind)	1142
ROMULO, Roman (Kampi)	15585
SALATANDRE, Orlando Jr. (Ind)	1896
TATCO, Jose Jr. (LP)	6391
Mayor	
BELARMINO, Marcelino (KBL)	15
EUSEBIO, Roberto (NPC, as of May 18)	64729
FABELLA, Vicete (Ind)	55
JAWORSKI, Robert Jr. (Lakas, as of May 18)	62222
VIVAR, Alejandro Jr. (Ind)	77
Vice-Mayor	
LANOT, Henry II (LP)	6196
MARTIRES, Rosali (Kampi)	15439
RAMOS, Briccio (Lakas)	10648
QUEZON CITY	
1763 out of 7003 precincts, Comelec count as of 6 p.m.	
Congressman (1st district)	
ABESAMIS, Rommel (NPC)	8285
CRISOLOGO, Vincent (Lakas)	23001
PADILLA, Antonio (Kapatiran)	459
Congressman (2nd district)	
ABAN, Vicente Jr. (Ind)	163
BALOSA, Esmeraldo (Ind)	82
JIMENEZ, Walter (Ind)	129
LIBAN, Dante (LP)	15187
MATHAY, Ismael III (Kampi)	36053
NUEVA, Norma (AK Party Independent)	312
SIMON, Brigido (PMP)	11291
SUSANO, Mary Ann (Lakas)	45389
Congressman (3rd district)	
SORIANO, Lita (Ind)	414
CALDERON, Ramon (KBL)	1261
CORRIOSO, Benjamin (LP)	277
DEFENSOR, Matias Jr. (Lakas)	21689
LOPE, Wendell (Independent Peoples Volunteer)	255
PUMAREN, Filomeno Jr. (Kapatiran)	4168
REMOTO, Danton (Ind)	2645
Congressman (4th district)	
DAZA, Nanette (Lakas)	43138
PALACIOS, Albert Hans (UNO/Ind)	7336
Mayor	
BELMONTE, Feliciano Jr. (Lakas) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
BAUTISTA, Herbert (Lakas) winner	
SAN JUAN	
Congressman (lone)	
ZAMORA, Ronaldo (PMP) winner	
Mayor	
EJERCITO, JV (PMP) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
CELLES, Leonardo (PMP) winner	
TAGUIG-PATEROS	
Congressman (1st district)	
CAYETANO, Ma. Laarni (NP) winner	
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALIT, Arturo (NPC)	21772
DUEÑAS, Henry Jr. (KDT)	28002
REYES, Angelito (Kampi)	26226
TAGUIG	
Namfrel count	
Mayor	
MIRANDA, Marianito (NPC)	19392
TINGA, Sigfrido (KDT)	56322
Vice-Mayor	
ELIAS, George (KDT)	38262
LABAO-ALZONA, Ma. Loida (UNO)	35100
PATEROS	
Mayor	
MEDINA, Jaime (PDP-Laban) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
SANCHEZ, Jose Jonathan (PDP-Laban) winner	
VALENZUELA CITY	
Congressman (1st district)	
GATCHALIAN, Rexlon (NPC) winner	
Congresman (2nd district)	
GUNIGUNDO, Magtanggol (LP) winner	
Mayor	
GATCHALIAN, Sherwin (NPC) winner	
Vice-Mayor	
MARTINEZ, Eric (Lakas) winner	

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Hamas accused of plotting to assassinate Abbas

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—AN alleged plot by Hamas militants to assassinate Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas was revealed on Thursday as deadly factional fighting resumed in Gaza and Israeli air strikes targeted the violence-wracked territory.

The plot was claimed hours after Abbas called off a trip to Gaza for talks aimed at reaching a definitive ceasefire between fighters from his Fatah party and Hamas that has left nearly 50 people dead and 100 wounded since Sunday.

"Abu Mazen's (Abbas's) visit to Gaza was canceled after the discovery of a tunnel under Salaheddine Road full of explosives placed by the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades to blow up (his) convoy," said a senior security official, referring to Hamas's military wing.

"The explosives were found on the route that Abu Mazen takes to travel to Gaza," the source added, speaking from the Palestinian political capital of Ramallah in the West Bank.

An official in Abbas's office confirmed the report but Abu Obeida, spokesperson for the Hamas armed wing, told AFP "these reports are aimed at poisoning the atmosphere in Gaza. We deny them completely."

Earlier, a source close to the president told AFP that Abbas did not want to go to Gaza until he was sure Hamas was firmly committed to the latest truce, which had already given way to fighting.

As the Palestinian crisis worsened, Israeli aircraft carried out four air strikes on Gaza, killing five people in retaliation for rockets being fired on Israel from the territory.

The first attack hit the headquarters of a Hamas paramilitary force, killing one person and wounding 30. Barely two hours later, a Hamas fighter was killed when Israel fired on a car in Gaza City.

A house was targeted in another strike that left another Hamas militant dead while a fourth strike on a car in the Sufa area, one of the crossing points between Israel and the southern Gaza Strip, killed two brothers aged 14 and 16. Their 17-year-old sister was gravely wounded.

About 15 Israeli tanks also advanced into Gaza near the former settlement of Dugit, a Palestinian security official said.

"Israeli tanks moved about 2 km into the Gaza Strip, near the former (Jewish) settlement of Dugit, and east of Jabaliya" southeast of Dugit and 4 km from the border at its closest point, the source said.

An Israeli military spokesperson said only that "some tanks entered the northern Gaza Strip in a defensive move, without going far from the barrier" separating the territory from Israel. *AFP*

New JFK analysis suggests 2nd shooter

WASHINGTON—A NEW ANALYSIS of remaining bullet fragments from the 1963 assassination of US president John F. Kennedy suggests a second shooter may have been involved in the plot.

The findings suggest the prevailing theory that a sole gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, killed Kennedy is wrong, according to a research team that published its findings on Thursday.

The researchers "show that evidence used to rule out a second assassin is fundamentally flawed," wrote William Tobin, the main author of the report, published in the latest issue of the Annals of Applied Statistics.

Tobin, a former FBI agent and forensic scientist, teamed with bullet lead analysis expert Cliff Spiegelman of Texas A & M University to reexamine the five bullet fragments recovered after Kennedy's assassination, using new scientific advances.

The findings countered testimony to the House Select Committee on Assassinations hearing in 1978 in which Dr. Vincent Guinn said the bullet fragments recovered signaled that two bullets of an unusual kind of ammunition were used.

"The new analyses show that the bullet fragments involved in the assassination are not nearly as rare as previously reported," Tobin said, pointing to results that showed one in 10 test bullets matched the fragments.

The findings "mean that the bullet fragments from the assassination that match could have come from three or more separate bullets."

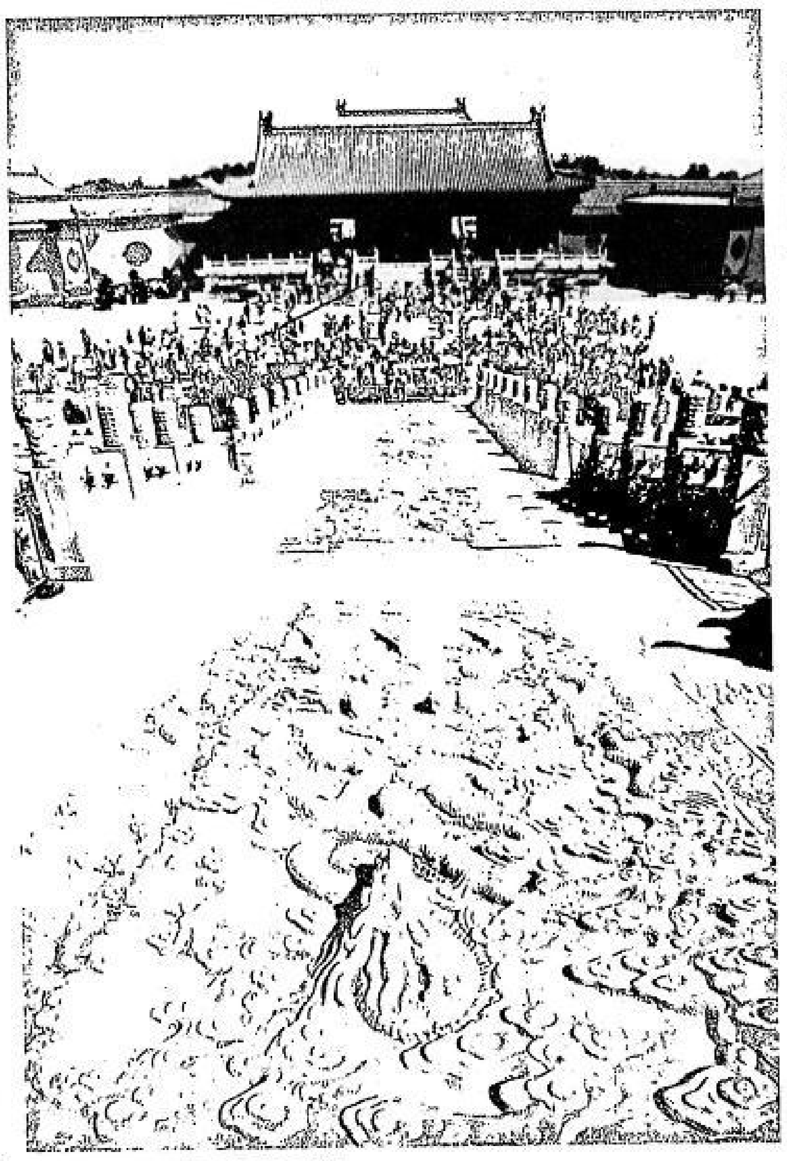
If that is the case, "then a second assassin is likely, as an additional bullet would not be attributable to the main suspect, Mr. Oswald," the report said.

"We believe there is no scientific basis from the fragment matching performed by Dr. Guinn to conclude that only two bullets were the sources of the assassination fragments."

The official theory, much challenged but never disproved, is the one established by the government-sanctioned Warren Commission, formed immediately after the killing.

The Commission, headed by Chief Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, said that Kennedy was assassinated by a sole gunman, Oswald, who fired his rifle from a window on the sixth floor of a book warehouse as the Kennedy's motorcade passed by during a visit to Dallas, Texas.

The commission determined that two bullets caused Kennedy's fatal wounds and found no evidence that anyone else was involved in the killing. *AFP*



WAY OF THE DRAGON

Tourists stand behind the nine dragons sculptures on display at the Forbidden City during the International Museum Day in central Beijing on May 18. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Half of Sarkozy's ministers are women

PARIS—France's President Nicolas Sarkozy on Friday unveiled a 15 minister government that includes seven women and maverick Socialist Bernard Kouchner as foreign minister. The government team, announced a day after the right-wing president named Francois Fillon as prime minister to lead his reform drive, has been slimmed down from 30 ministers in the outgoing cabinet of Jacques Chirac. The new cabinet broke much new ground by giving half the jobs to women and includes for the first time a minister of North African origin, highlighting Sarkozy's declared aim of making a clean break with France's political past. *AFP*

Paris Hilton likely to serve only 23 days

LOS ANGELES—Paris Hilton scrapped an appeal against her 45-day prison term on Thursday as justice officials said she could be released for good behavior after serving only half of the sentence. The multi-millionaire celebrity and heiress to the Hilton hotel empire was stunned earlier this month after being slapped with a stint behind bars for continuing to drive despite having her license suspended. But the prospect of having to spend just over six weeks in the spartan Century Regional Detention Facility has been softened by confirmation that she could be released after 23 days—if she behaves. *AFP*

Sentencing in 1993 Mumbai bombings case

MUMBAI, INDIA—A court handed out the first sentences Friday to five of the more than 100 people convicted of involvement in the 1993 serial bombings in India's financial capital Mumbai that killed 257 people—the country's deadliest terrorist attacks. Five men, including three fishermen, were sentenced to three years imprisonment and a fine of 25,000 rupees ($610) each for transporting caches of arms and ammunition on their fishing trawlers from the high seas to the Indian coast before the blasts. Judge Pramod Kode said they were spared a harsher sentence of up to seven years because they were unaware of the contents of the containers they were smuggling. *AP*

Bush threatens new sanctions against Iran

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush warned on Thursday that the United States and Britain would push for new UN sanctions against Iran if the Islamic republic refuses to rein in its suspect nuclear program. "If we're unable to make progress with the Iranians, we want to work together to implement new sanctions through the United Nations," Bush told a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The United States and Britain would "continue to make it clear that Iran with a nuclear weapon is not in the interest of peace in the world," Bush said as Blair made his final White House visit as prime minister. Shortly after Bush spoke, a senior Iranian official told the semi-official news agency Mehr on Thursday that Iran was installing 3,000 centrifuges at its uranium enrichment facility at Natanz, which could allow it to process enough nuclear material to build one atomic bomb per year. *AFP*

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US senators agree on immigration reform legislation

WASHINGTON—SENATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES ANNOUNCED an agreement on Thursday afternoon on immigration-reform legislation that would bring illegal immigrants and their families "out of the shadows and into the sunshine of American life," as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy put it.

The bill would provide an opportunity "right away" for millions of illegal aliens to correct their status, said Kennedy, D-Mass. It would emphasize family ties as well as employment skills in weighing how soon immigrants could become legal residents, he said.

But it would also emphasize improved border security and would call for "very strong sanctions" against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, according to Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Both senators acknowledged that the proposed bill, which was immediately praised by President Bush, is likely to come under fire both from the political right and the political left—decried either as "amnesty" or as "not humanitarian enough," as Specter said.

To become legislation, the proposed bill would have to be approved by the House, which has had serious differences with the Senate on the issue. The House has tended to emphasize border security more than ways to allow immigrants to become citizens, and any mention of "amnesty" for illegal aliens has been anathema in the House.

Still, Kennedy said that the bill, however imperfect, was the best chance in years to secure America's borders, help millions of people who have been living in fear and help to eliminate a sad and sordid "underground economy" in American life.

The legislation, as explained by the senators, is "comprehensive" enough to require 380 pages, Specter noted. He said that illegal aliens would have to earn their right to be on the path to citizenship and would have to go to "the end of the line," bureaucratically speaking.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic majority leader, on Thursday praised the work of the Senate negotiators and said their agreement "can serve as a starting point" for a Senate debate next week.

Bush praised the senators' agreement as a prelude to "an immigration system that is secure, productive, orderly and fair."

The senators said the system they envision would give weight to immigrants' education and to job skills deemed helpful to the economy in deciding whom to admit, using a point system to evaluate those qualifications. Family ties would remain an important factor.

The point system is one element of a comprehensive bill that calls for the biggest changes in immigration law and policy in more than 20 years. The full Senate plans to take up the legislation next week. *New York Times News Service*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Pistons send Bulls packing /A28

Espiritu takes overall lead; stage to Obosa

By Musong R. Castillo

CABANATUAN CITY—VICTOR ESPIRITU took three years to rejoin the Padyak Pinoy.

He needed just two stages to occupy a familiar place.

Espiritu rode it easy like the other big guns yesterday but still managed to strip the yellow jersey off the back of a willing Frederick Feliciano after a truly humid journey from the Quezon Memorial Circle to this tricycle-choked city.

The 31-year-old, who won the fabled Tour ng Pilipinas in 1996 as a rookie, whisked past Feliciano by three seconds for the overall lead after checking in third in the 119-kilometer stage won for the second straight year by Ericson Obosa.

Obosa, winner of the 2007 Pista'y Dayat Cycling Classic from Manaoag in Pangasinan who missed making the RP Team this year, won out in a spill-littered dash to the finish, nosing out obscure Baler Ravina in two-hours, 49 minutes and 16.07 seconds through relatively flat terrain.

Starting the day just four seconds off, Espiritu and Feliciano actually turned in the same times. (Espiritu sat it out since 2004 due to the rift between Pagcor, which bankrolled the Trade Team, and the organizing PhilCycling.)

But the four-second bonus for finishing third behind Obosa and Ravina eased Feliciano out of the overall lead with Espiritu's total time of 2:53:17.740.

"Now that I have the yellow jersey, I guess I'll have to defend it the best way I can," Espiritu, whose bid for a repeat in 1997 was clipped by the great Hong Kong Olympian Wong Kam po, said in Filipino.

And it was a development Feliciano, a mountain specialist, was just too eager to accept. *(See stage results on A26)*

"I was actually praying for that (to lose the yellow jersey)," Feliciano told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

"It's difficult to ride with that on because everyone guards every move you make."

Obosa jumped into a tie for third in the overall race with Alvin Benosa, just another second behind Feliciano even as defending champion Santy Barnachea occupied fifth spot, another tick back, after also finishing in the 25-man first wave.

Arnel Quirimit, also a former winner, was tied with Barnachea, while Lloyd Reynante took seventh slot, seven seconds off the pace.

BACCHUS team captain Ericson Obosa (left) pedals side by side with tour prologue winner Frederick Feliciano during yesterday's Padyak Pinoy 2nd stage. BOY CABRIDO

Cossack riders set the pace

CABANATUAN—DEFENDING CHAMPION Cossack Vodka, despite a lineup lacking in big names, zoomed to the early lead in the team division of the 2007 Tanduay Padyak Pinoy after the second stage from Quezon City to here.

Skipper Renato Sambrano led Cossack's attack by checking in with the first group led by lap winner Ericson Obosa with a time of 2-hours, 49 minutes and 16.07 seconds.

Promising Nino Jasul and assistant captain Michael Reyes were also in that group as Cossack timed 11:17:32.104 to lead Arnel Quirimit's Mail & More by nearly three minutes.

Reynaldo Navarro rode shoulder to shoulder with his skipper Quirimit to also finish in the first wave even as Vellum of first stage winner Frederick Feliciano was third, just a fraction of a second behind Mail & More with its 11:20:19.185 tally.

Irish Valenzuela, the Rookie of the Year last year, was the fourth rider that counted for Cossack.

Orcollo rips rival, gains Enjoypool 9-ball finals

REIGNING WORLD POOL LEAGUE CHAMPion Dennis Orcollo downed Shane Van Boening of the United States, 11-6, yesterday to book the first finals seat in the 2007 Enjoypool.com 9-ball Championships at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Orcollo won the opening lag and surged to a 7-4 lead to take the fight out of Boening, who is hard on hearing, in the alternate-break format according to on line report of AZbilliards forum.

The 28-year-old Orcollo earlier beat fellow Filipino Jose "Amang" Parica, 11-8, while Boening trounced countryman Mike Davis, 11-6, in the fifth match of winner's brackets.

With the loss, Boening will face Davis, who bested 2006 US Open titlist John Schmidt, 11-8, in the one-loss side for the right to challenge Orcollo for the $15,000 champion's purse.

Orcollo, being supported by Bugsy Promotion honcho Perry Mariano, is already assured of $9,000 for reaching the finals.

Second loss

The 54-year-old Parica suffered his second loss to Schmidt, 11-8, to join countrymen Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Marlon Manalo, Santos Sambajon and Warren Kiamco at the sidelines.

Schmidt also beat Japa's Satoshi Kawabata, 11-3, who dealt Sambajon's second loss, 11-6.

Davis nipped 2001 Cardiff World 9-Ball champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 11-9. Immonen crushed Manalo and Bustamante, respectively, by similar 11-8 scores.

Earlier, Bustamante bested five-time world champion Johnny Archer of the United States, 11-8, while Archer walloped Kiamco, 11-3. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

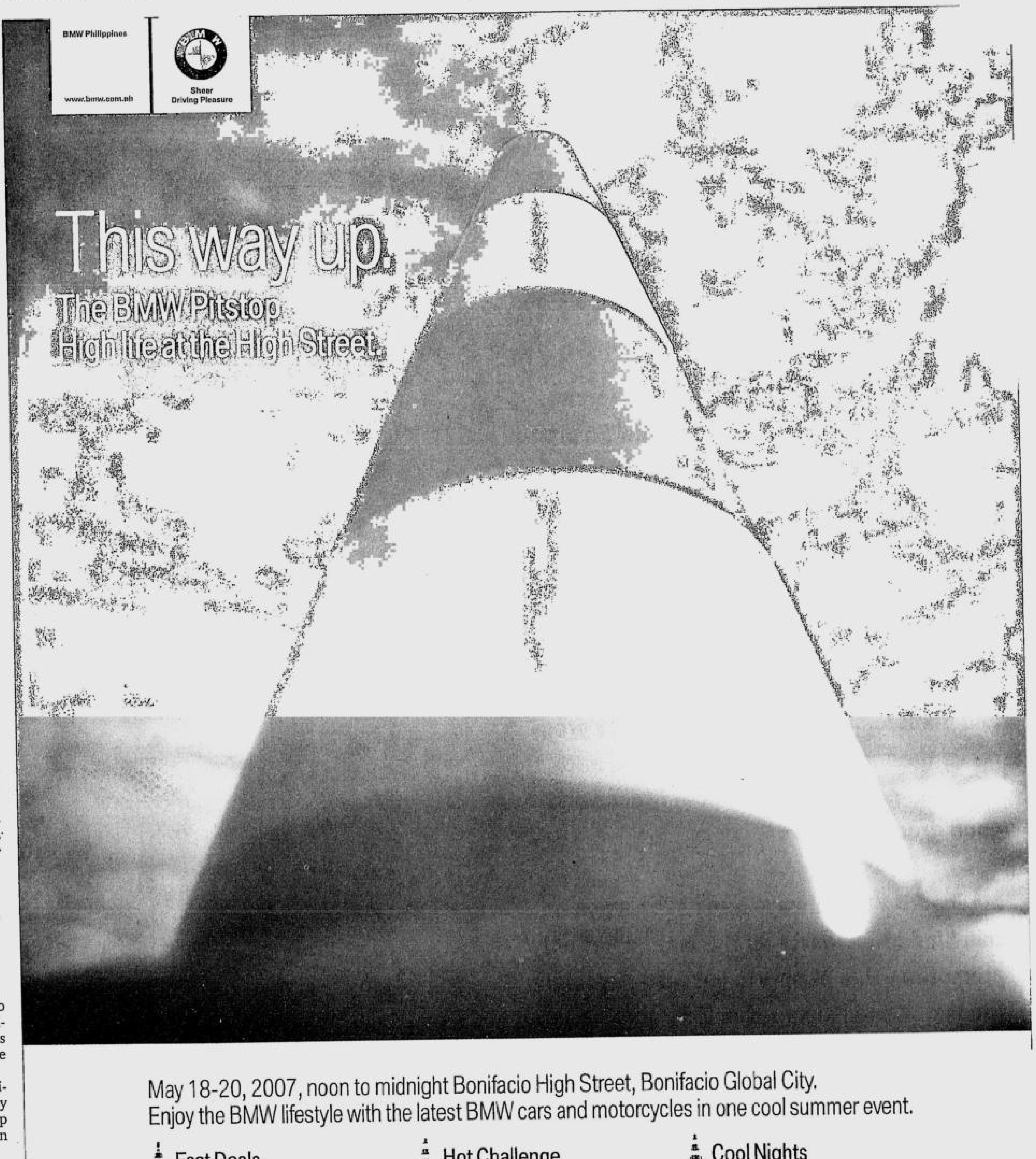
Alcano downs Thai in 9-ball

FILIPINO DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION Ronato Alcano opened up with a 9-4 victory over Thailand's Nitiwat Kanjanasriid in the 2007 Guinness 9-Ball Tour Kaohsiung leg crown yesterday at the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in Chinese-Taipei.

The reigning WPA World 8-ball and 9-ball titlist, built a 2-0 lead, but the Thai countered by taking the next four racks. Alcano stepped up and stringed seven table runs to notch the win in the 13th rack.

Alcano will face 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Vietnamese Luong Chi Dung in the evening.

Antonio Lining, the 2006 Japan 9-ball Open winner, and 2004 WPA World Pool champ Alex Pagulayan failed to hurdle their first assignments in their respective groups. Lining bowed to Chao Fong-pang, 9-8, while Pagulayan yielded to Indonesian Ricky Yang. *Marlon Bernardino*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1940 Series of 2007

WBC orders Pacquiao-Marquez tiff

By Roy Luarca

FORGET ABOUT A MANNY PACQUIAO-Joan Guzman fight for now.

The order of business is the more lucrative rematch between the Filipino ring icon and Mexican master tactician Juan Manuel Marquez.

That's exactly what the World Boxing Council wants to happen within the year.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman has ordered the camps of Pacquiao, the mandatory challenger, and Marquez, the reigning super featherweight titlist, to immediately begin free negotiations until June 18.

If no agreement is reached—as the handlers of both Pacquiao and Marquez have other immediate opponents in mind—a purse bidding would be held at the WBC headquarters in Mexico City.

Top Rank big boss Bob Arum has been eyeing the unbeaten Guzman, the WBO super featherweight champion, as Pacquiao's likely opponent in a bout projected to be held in Macau on Oct. 6.

Controversial draw

Marquez, best remembered for surviving three first-round knockdowns and then forging a controversial draw with Pacquiao in their first meeting on May 8, 2004, is keen on fighting either Barrera, from whom he wrested the WBC crown in February, or Argentina's Jorge Barrios.

Arum, 75, has placed Marquez low on his priority list, stressing that the Golden Boy Promotions mainstay is asking for a bigger gate share than Pacquiao, even though he (Marquez) has "absolutely no fan base."

Under WBC rules, the champion gets 75 percent share, with the challenger settling for 25 percent.

Ranked above Marquez on Arum's hit list are knockout artist Edwin Valero, Barrera and Mexican Humberto Soto, who is slated to battle Bobby Pacquiao, Manny's younger brother, on June 9 in New York.

Though not on the list, WBC featherweight champ Injin Chi should also be considered as a probable Pacquiao opponent, according to Korean Boxing Commission executive adviser Major Lee, who sits on the WBC board of governors.

PACQUIAO: Marquez low on his list

Computer picks Manny to stop Mexican champ

COMPUTER FIGHT SIMULATION HAS REvealed that Manny Pacquiao has a 50-percent chance of knocking out Juan Manuel Marquez if their grudge battle pushes through.

But if Marquez wins, it's likely to be via decision, according to the results obtained by Marvin Langer and released through Boxing Confidential Friday.

For two weeks, Langer conducted 100,000 simulations set at 12 rounds and under standard championship rules.

He inputted computerized profiles of the two boxers, taking into account their strengths, weaknesses, ring tendencies and characteristics.

And, as Langer's data would show, the bout is likely to go either way, just like their first meeting

In 41,954 instances Pacquiao emerged victorious with a 50-percent chance of stoppage, 44 percent by decision and only 6 percent by split verdict.

Marquez beat Pacquiao in 40,857 instances, winning 71 percent by decision, 14 percent by knockout and 15 percent by split decision.

A draw or technical stoppage occurred in 17,189 cases. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

STAGE 2 RESULTS

2007 Tanduay-Padyak Pinoy
Quezon City to Cabanatuan City (119 kms)

1. E. Obosa, (Bacchus), 2 hours, 49 minutes, 16.07 secs
2. B. Ravina, (Cool Pap), same time
3. V. Espiritu, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
4. N. Jasul, (Cossack Vodka), same time
5. M. Ramos, (U-Freight), same time
6. F. Alagano, (AIR21), same time
7. A. Quirimit, (Mail & More), same time
8. F. Feliciano, (Vellum), same time
9. D. Cagas, (Bacchus), same time
10. E. Quiñones, (Vellum), same time
11. R. Sambrano, (Cossack Vodka), same time
12. J Calderon, (Caltex), same time
13. A. Benosa, (U-Freight), same time
14. B. Luzon, (Cool Pap), same time
15. J. Duenas, (Mail & More), same time
16. H. Sicam, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
17. R. Martin, (Vellum), same time
18. LL Reynante, (AIR21), same time
19. R. Navarro, (Mail & More), same time
20. E Atilano, (Cargohaus), same time
21. S. Barnachea, (Champion), same time
22. S. Carrera, (Caltex), same time
23. E. Domingo, (Champion), same time
24. J. Tolentino, (Caltex), same time
25. M. Reyes, (Cossack Vodka), same time
26. O. Rendole, (Cool Pap), 2:49:29.63
27. I. Valenzuela, (Cossack Vodka), 2:49:45.89
28. F. Pablo, (Champion), 2:50:51.47
29. JM Guevarra, (Bacchus), 2:52:30.97, same time with 45 other cyclists

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

1. V. Espiritu, (Wow Magic Sing), 2:53:17
2. F. Feliciano, (Vellum), 2:53:21
3. E. Obosa, (Bacchus), same time
4. A. Benosa, (U-Freight), 2:53:22.2
5. S. Barnachea, (Champion), 2:53:23
6. A. Quirimit, (Mail & More), 2:53:23.9
7. L. Reynante, (AIR21), 2:53:25
8. S. Carrera, (Caltex), same time
9. E. Atilano, (Cargohaus), 2:53:29
10. B. Ravina, (Cool Pap), same time
11. R. Navarro, (Mail & More). 2:53:30
12. R. Sambrano, (Cossack Vodka), same time
13. J. Duenas, (Mail & More), same time
14. D. Cagas, (Bacchus), 2:53:31
15. J. Calderon (Caltex), same time
16. B. Luzon, (Cool Pap), same time
17. M. Ramos, (U-Freight), 2:53:32
18. H. Sicam, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
19. R. Martin, (Vellum), 2:53:34
20. M. Reyes, (Cossack Vodka), 2:53:35
21. E. Quiñones (Vellum), 2.53:35.851

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Cossack Vodka, 11 hours, 17 minutes, 34 secs
2. Mail & More, 11:20:19.184
3. Vellum, 11:20:19.185
4. Caltex, 11:20:19.187
5. Cool Pap, 11:20:26.745
6. Champion, 11:21:54.585
7. Bacchus, 11:23:24.061
8. Wow Magic Sing, 11:23:30.083
9. AIR21, 11:23:34.083
10. U-Freight, 11:23:34.087
11. Cargohaus, 11:26:48.988
12. Vis-Min Team, 11:30:03.887

Iggy erects 7-shot lead

ILOILO—IGGY CLAVECILLA FIRED a two-over-par 72 to build a whopping seven-shot lead over erstwhile co-leader Rolly Viray after the second round of the Philippine Senior Amateur Open at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club yesterday.

Clavecilla, who also routed the field on the way to last year's title at Riviera, shot three birds for a 34 in the back side, then watched Viray crack with an 8 on the 14th to pull away in the Open division with 149.

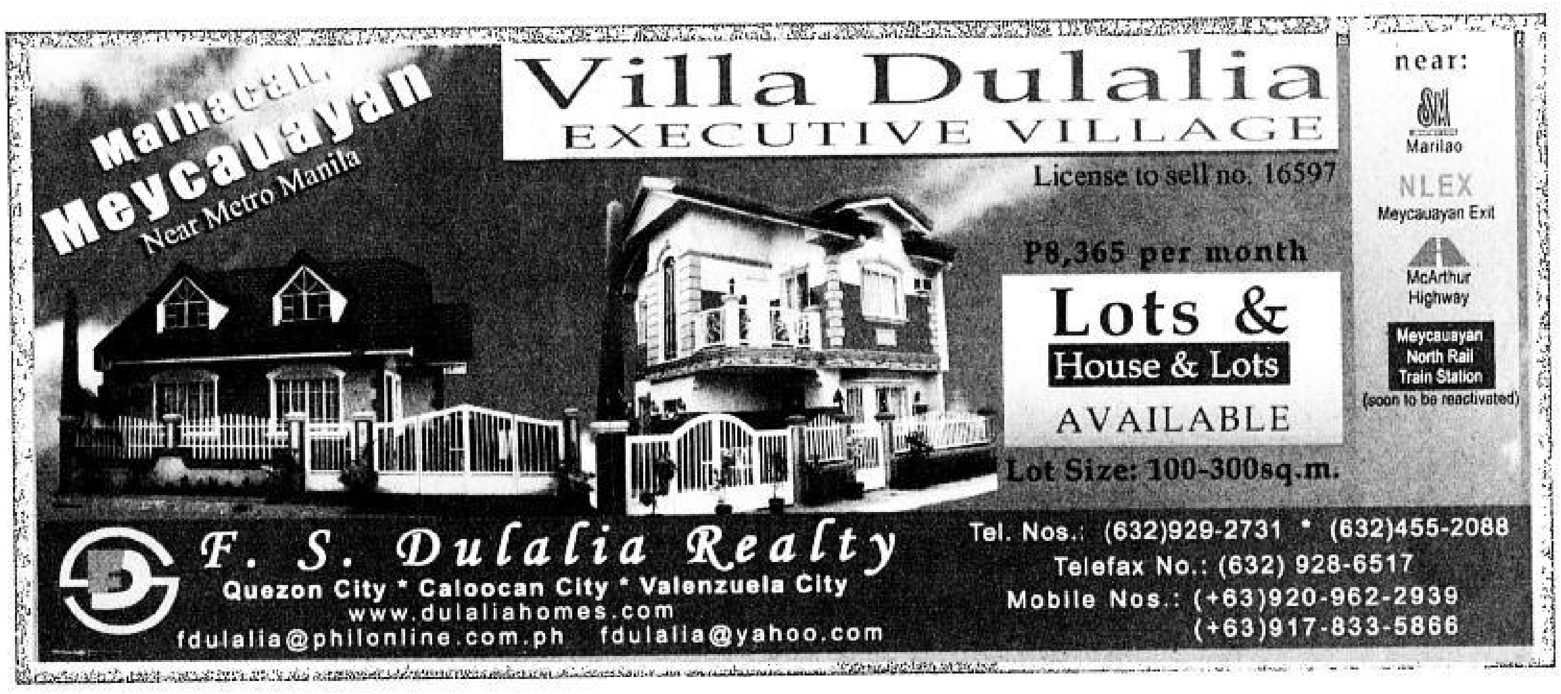
Viray also double-bogeyed the 10th and wound up with a 79 (156).

Severino Roxas-Chua kept third after carding a 79 for a 161, 12 shots off the pace, while former national amateur champion Francis Gaston faltered with an 82 for a 163.

Lino Magpantay and Bing Bunye shot identical 84s and remained tied for fifth with 166s heading into the final round.

Lascuña 3 off clubhouse lead in Macau Open

MACAU—TONY LASCUÑA FIRED A 2-UNDER-PAR 69 FRIDAY AND STOOD three strokes off the clubhouse pace set by Chinese star Zhang Lianwei halfway through the weather-disrupted $300,000 Macau Open. Lascuña, who shot a 68 Thursday like compatriot Juvic Pagunsan, wound up with a total of 137. Pagunsan had already dropped six shots on par going to the 15th hole. Australian Richard Moir is 9 under through 14 holes before lightning forced the suspension of play.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PBA at PCSO
Kasama mo

Last February 17, Philippine Basketball Association launched "Kasama Mo", a program aimed at promoting healthy citizenry and community. It was presented at Cavite Coliseum Grounds, Bacoor Cavite.

PBA, in partnership with PCSO, seeks to curb Filipinos' health problems especially malnourishment, obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes. In line with this are the program's thrusts namely good nutrition, anti-drug and no smoking, physical fitness and good grooming.

"The PBA has always been supportive on this kind of endeavor as the league not only promotes value of sports but also physical fitness," Commisioner Noli Eala said.

The players themselves advocate this cause through their healthy lifestyles. Indeed, the league not only entertains but also cares for the society.

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Commissioner NOLI EALA (PBA) and Director STRIKE REVILLA (PCSO) cuts the ribbon as they officially open the launch of the PBA-PCSO Wellness Campaign.

PCSO Director STRIKE REVILLA gets a shot of Anti-Tuberculosis vaccination with our Marketing Partner, GLAXOSMITHKLINE.

JORDAN SALVADOR of Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants lead delegates in donating blood with MARKETING partner, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS.

In behalf of Cavite residents, PCSO Director STRIKE REVILLA receives fifteen (15) units of Nebulizer courtesy of Marketing Partner, OMRON.

From l - R, Phil. Association for Study of Overweight and Obesity Vice President Dr. [illegible], PBA Commissioner NOLI EALA, Dr. [illegible] of PASOO and PCSO Dir. STRIKE REVILLA [illegible]. Watching over are players from Welcoat Dragons and San Miguel Beermen.

Welcoat Dragons cager, JUNJUN CABATU gets a shot of Anti-Tuberculosis vaccination with our Marketing Partner, GLAXOSMITHKLINE.

Commissioner NOLI EALA and PCSO Director STRIKE REVILLA watch over a Caviteno as he gets free haircut from REYES HAIRCUTTERS.

Harbour five set to run all the way vs Henkel

HARBOUR CENTRE COACH JORGE GALLENT expects an intense, fast-paced game when his defending champions clash with Henkel Sista starting at 12 noon in the PBL Unity Cup today.

"We have to win to be safe in the semis," said Gallent, noting that his Batang Pier must win two of their remaining three elimination games for an outright semifinal berth.

"We know (Fil-Am Ryan) Reyes provides the tempo of their team. Sista's asset is their running game and their three-point shooting. Our transition defense must be in tip-top shape."

Holding a 7-2 slate, Harbour Centre remains just half a game behind league-leading Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala.

Toyota Balintawak, ranked third at 5-4, must also triumph over Dazz 'Sang Patak at 4 p.m. to stay in the running for the two automatic slots in the Final Four.

Meanwhile, San Miguel-Magnolia and Burger King will try to end their losing skids at 2 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Toyota Balintawak will seek to avenge its first-round loss to Dazz, 86-81, with the return of Fil-Am Joe Devance.

"We still have a chance to be in the top two with Joe playing in our next game," said Vanguardia. "(Dazz guard Reed) Juntilla killed us with 28 points the last time."

Devance, the Most Valuable Player in the same tournament last year, left for the United States last year to attend to his ailing mother Mae, who hails from Escalante, Negros Occidental.

With his mom fully recovered, the 6-foot-7 center returned to the country last Wednesday.

Devance watched from the sideline two days ago as teammate Erick Rodriguez exploded with 26 points to lead the Road Kings to a 79-68 decision over Magnolia.

The Road Kings will shoot for their third straight win against the Kitchen Specialists, who are trying to climb from the cellar to avoid early elimination.

Batang Pier will shoot for back-to-back wins after a 78-72 decision over Dazz, a victory that drew strong performances from Jason Castro, Chico Lanete, Beau Belga and Chad Alonzo.

But Reyes is expected to be back in form after the Super Sealers' 79-68 setback against Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala

The Moneymen held the Fil-Am point guard to only nine points after averaging 17 in his first three outings. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
C. Lhuillier	8	2
Harbour	7	2
Toyota Bal.	5	4
Henkel Sista	4	5
Burger King	4	5
Dazz	2	7
Magnolia	2	7

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—Henkel Sista vs Harbour Centre
2 p.m.—San Miguel-Magnolia vs Burger King
4 p.m.—Dazz 'Sang Patak vs Toyota Balintawak

ASI Taulava grimaces as he tries to stop Iran's bull-strong, 7-foot-3 Joseph Garth.

Slim chance for RP five

TEHRAN—SAN MIGUEL-RP TEAM WAS CAUGHT IN A TOUGH MUST-WIN SITuation against unbeaten Blue Star of Lebanon in the quarterfinal round last night of the 18th Fiba Asia Champions Cup at the Azadi Stadium here.

The match, set at 4:15 p.m. (8:45 p.m., Manila time), kicked off the quarterfinals of the tournament that has been a practical classroom for the Nationals gearing up for other important tournaments.

The Nationals, which bested Bahrain for their first win Wednesday, were expectedly the underdogs against the Lebanese who emerged from the eliminations of the three-team Group A unscathed.

"To me, they're the second-best, if not the best, team here," said RP coach Chot Reyes. "We go into the game as underdogs, but you never know."

For the second straight game, the Nationals will be playing an opponent with no towering import, the Lebanese reinforcements being 6-foot-10 John Carter and 6-6 William Pippen, said to be a relative of former NBA star Scottie Pippen.

Still, the two Americans have proven to be efficient and effective, especially when combining forces with Lebanon star El Fadi El Khatib. Their coach, Maz Trakh, is a former Talk 'N Text consultant and is thus familiar with the style of play in the PBA.

"We've got to control the ball longer, but our emphasis will be on defense," Reyes said. "We've got to stop their transition game and disrupt their half-court offense. *Grabe kasi ang* half-court executions *nila*."

A win over the Lebanese would push the Nationals into Saturday's semifinals while a loss would relegate them to the battle for fifth place.

Reyes said any finish would suit as long as his players continued to benefit from the stint that precedes next week's Seaba tournament and July's Fiba Asia championship.

"We're here to learn," he said.

No rest day for Nationals

TEHRAN—THE SAN MIGUEL-RP TEAM continued to work on what was supposed to be a rest day Thursday in the 18th Fiba Asia Champions Cup.

Despite tired bodies, the Nationals spent the better half of the morning playing a practice game with the Iran national pool at the Azadi Stadium.

The Iranians, featuring a 7-foot-5 who is still a work in progress and two more able centers who stand no lower than 6'10, came out ahead 63-47 after the three-quarter match.

But coach Chot Reyes said his players gained more in terms of their continuous adjustments from their PBA style of play copied from the American NBA.

"In the US, it's speed and quickness, while in the international arena it's more on size and physicality," he said.

"The physicality is the biggest adjustment to make. We've got to have the ability to handle hard contacts, unlike in the PBA where there are no hand checks and a bump is a foul.

Rest did come later Thursday before the Nationals attended a dinner hosted by consul Renato Duenas and his staff.

Coseteng guns for 2nd sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION JODY COSETENG OF San Mig Coffee and Alvin Santos of Kotse Network gun for another sweep in their respective divisions in today's second leg of the Philippine Touring Car Championship Series at the Subic International Raceway.

Coseteng thwarted perennial rival Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the season-opener last month in the PTCC Group 1 class.

He's expected to parade a new car in hopes of nailing an unprecedented 11th straight touring car crown.

Last year's Group 3 winner Uly Maningding of Explorer Motorsports showed he is one of the new forces to reckon with in Group 1 this season. A damaged rear fender and a loose driver's seat. however, foiled his bid in the first leg.

The other big championship threats in the six-leg series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines are Louis Ramirez, Dennis Uy, Renan Morales, Nico Montinola, Jonathan Buxton, Carlos Anton and Gabby de la Merced.

Top drivers chase Tiu's drag record

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST DRAG RACERS SET out again today in a bid to beat Jonathan Tiu's record time of 10.57 seconds in the fourth leg of the San Mig Coffee Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario town.

Chief tuner Mato Tan of Matonetics, winner of the last leg in his DGL Motorsports Honda Chop Top, leads the chasers with a special car setup this time. His best time in the series is 10.726 secs.

Some 100 drivers see action in the Quick 8, Pro, Sportsman and Hot Street titles in the races, part of the six-leg series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

Tan ranks second to Tiu with 15 points, in a tie with Vanni Garcia of W. Autosport Vannitec, Roy Peter Concepcion of Orthodox Racing and lady driver When When Dagondon, also of WAV.

Among the other favored drivers are Jeannette Go of Team Ere in the Hot Street division and Von Bringas of Team Ready who shares the lead with Charles Lu and Sherwin Esguerra in the Sportsman class. *Inquirer Sports staff*

P1-M poker tour swings to South

THE THIRD PHILIPPINE POKER TOUR MILLION-Peso Hold'Em championship begins its southern swing today with the holding of a satellite tournament at the Casino Filipino-Lahug in Cebu.

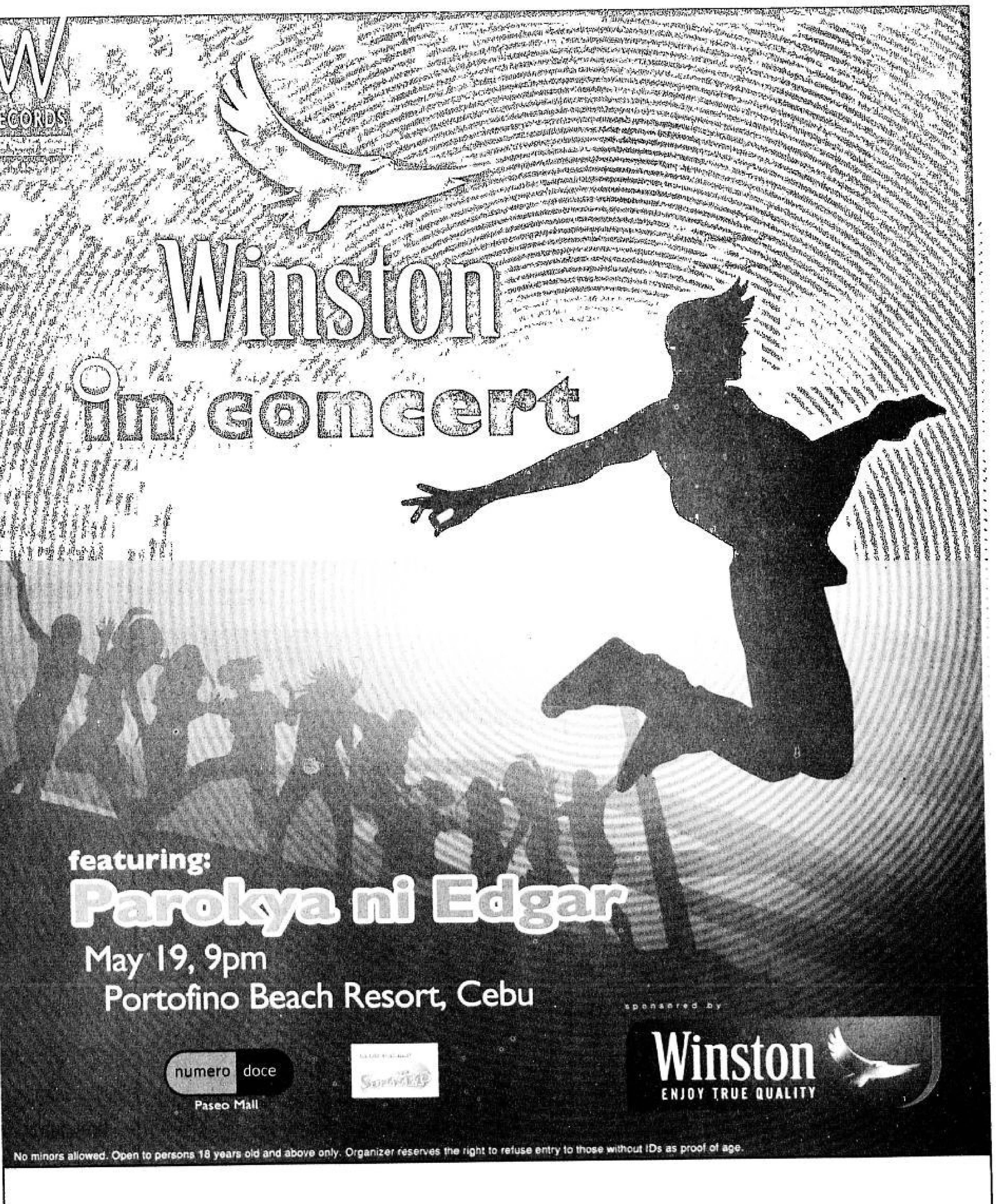
Competitions will also be held in Bacolod and Davao.

Local poker players will vie for free seats in the grand finals slated July 7-8 in Manila. Tournament and registration fee is P33,000.

Players from the south have been giving their counterparts from Metro Manila and Luzon stiff competition in previous PPT Million-Peso events.

Cebu's Manuel Regis and Mike Tyler made it to the top 10 in the April competition and Regis went all the way to the final table and a fourth-place finish in the December finals.

Other qualifying-satellite tournaments are ongoing at San Mig Alabang Town Center every Wednesday and Friday and at Elbow Room at Metro Walk in Pasig every Thursday. For details, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com.



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Government Warning:
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SPORTS

ALL FOR ONE NO MORE: Detroit stalwarts Rasheed Wallace (left) and Tayshaun Prince (right) battle former teammate Ben Wallace, now with the Chicago Bulls, for possession. The three played together the last time the Pistons won the NBA championship. AFP

Pistons send Bulls packing

CHICAGO—RICHARD HAMILTON SCORED 23 points and the Detroit Pistons advanced to the National Basketball Association's Eastern Conference final for the fifth year in a row by beating Chicago, 95-85, Thursday.

Chauncey Billups added 21 points for the Pistons, who eliminated the Bulls, 4-2, in the best-of-seven series and will play the winner between Cleveland and New Jersey for a spot in next month's NBA Finals.

"Our goal is to win the championship. The conference finals is on the way," Billups said. "Maybe one day I'll look back on getting there five straight times."

Detroit lost to Miami in last year's East finals after falling to San Antonio in the 2005 NBA Finals, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2004 NBA Finals and losing to New Jersey in the 2003 East final.

"Experience has a tendency to help out," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "There's no question having been here, our guys know what it takes. We have guys to make big shots and big defensive stands.

"It's a hell of an accomplishment to go five straight years to the conference finals."

Since 1984, when the NBA expanded the playoffs to the current 16 teams, only the Lakers have reached a conference final more consecutive seasons that Detroit's present run, the longest in the East since Chicago's fifth in 1993.

"Almost all the time in a seven-game series the best team wins," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said. "They're the best team right now."

Chicago's PJ Brown scored all of his team-high 20 points in the first half to spark the Bulls to a 48-43 half-time lead, but Detroit opened the third quarter with a 12-1 run to seize command.

"We started moving the ball," Detroit forward Rasheed Wallace said. "That first half we were just stagnant. We didn't move the ball."

The Bulls never overcame that sluggish start to the second half.

"We started missing some shots and the ball stopped moving for us," Chicago's Kirk Hinrich said. "That usually spells trouble for us."

Wallace scored 16 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds. *AFP*

Cavs clear LeBron for Game Five

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
7:30 a.m.—Cleveland vs New Jersey

CLEVELAND, OHIO—CLEVELAND PLAYmaker LeBron James will play Friday in Game Six of the Cavaliers' Eastern Conference playoff series against the New Jersey Nets, the team announced Thursday.

The visiting Cavaliers lead the series, 3-2, and can clinch the best-of-seven matchup with a road victory.

James suffered a bruised right knee and a minor scrape when he crashed into his team's bench while battling New Jersey's Jason Kidd for a loose ball in the final seconds of an 83-72 Nets victory here Wednesday.

James is averaging team highs of 26.2 points and 8.1 assists as well as 7.8 rebounds a game in the playoffs for the Cavaliers, who have not reached the conference finals since 1992 and have never advanced to the NBA Finals. *AFP*

SUN AT THE CENTER
Phoenix Suns' Boris Diaw, bottom center, is surrounded by media after basketball practice in Phoenix. Diaw returns to the Suns for a crucial Game 6 against the San Antonio Spurs, who lead their best-of-7 playoff series, 3-2. Diaw and Amare Stoudamire return to the Suns roster after serving one-game suspensions. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ICOMPIA, INC. U-2905 Teklite West Tower, PSE Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kyung Ah Lee	Branch Manager
ATTIC TOURS PHILS., INC. # 2011 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Yoshiro Yamaguchi	Operations Manager
SUN LIFE OF CANADA (PHILIPPINES) INC. 11/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sylviana Dewi Sundoro	Consultant
PHIL. HAUZEN CORP. 4F Coretown Bldg., # 2822 EDSA Extension, cor. P. Celle St., Pasay City	Kwang Dong Lee	Tour Guide
ACCENTS/STI BANAWE MANAGEMENT, INC. 7/F Phil. First Bldg., 6764 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kurt Karl Ganter	Vice President
KRAYNO MEDICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC. G/F West of Ayala Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Antonio Salvatore Sannino	Marketing Director
CHITRA'S MANUFACTURING, INC. 3/F HRDC Bldg., Km. 16 Acsie Rd. cor. Severina Industrial Estate, Parañaque City	Kishan Chand Jilwani	General Manager
MANILA MANDARIN HOTEL, INCORPORATED (MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA) Mandarin Oriental, Makati Avenue, Makati City	Kunihiro Kita	Japanese Sales Manager
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ravi Garret Bennet Benn	Customer Support Staff
BADATECH, INC. Stall 28 Central Terminal, EDSA Bagong Pag-Asa, Quezon City	Bumsuk Park	General Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES, INC. 14/F RCBC Tower 2, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jennifer Ada Dorangricchia	Senior Vice President
GE MONEY SERVICING-PHILIPPINES, INC. Plaza A, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Ramesh Menon Kollath Puthan Veetil	Finance Manager
KPCC MISSION TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. 206 Cityland Tower II, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila	Sang Ryul Yoon	General Manager
JEONGSU RESORT CORPORATION 635 Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila	Jun Mo Yang	Sales & Marketing Manager
AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Seh Hoon Chun	Targeter
OHSUNG TRAVEL & TOURS AGENCY, INC. Unit 13-8137 Plaza J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Inja Yeo (wife of JEON)	Operations Manager
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Cond., 7 Eisenhower St., San Juan, Metro Manila	Young Mi Yoo (w/o Bong)	Consultant
YBM PNT INC. 28/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City	Myoung Ah Chae	Assistant Manager
DOM AUSTRALIA IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT INC. 2409 Herrera Tower, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sincheol Kim	General Manager
QUITALIG MARKETING LTD. CO. 40-42 Tendito St., Quezon City	Jinlan Qiu	Office Secretary/ Interpreter

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-3013 & 303-6620.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI-May 19, 2007)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

2 pcs. of 480V of Uninterruptible Power Supply under FGA 61619
Approved Budget PHP 4,400,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **May 22, 2007,** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 1,500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **May 30, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management's Office Wall Clock Time) of June 13, 2007** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI-May 19, 2007)

PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **Philippine Rice Research Institute**, through the Government of the Philippines in collaboration with Bill Gates Foundation intends to apply the sum of **FIVE MILLION FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP 5,058,725.00)** being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 07-02-007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF VARIOUS LABORATORY EQUIPMENT.** Delivery of Goods is required within sixty (60) to ninety (90) days after receipt of the approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on May 22 to 25, 2007 during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (Php 5,000.00). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on May 29, 2007; 2:00 p.m. at PhilRice, Training Rm. 3, Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Munoz, N.E.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before the 5th of June, 2007, 1:45 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Pesos and 25/100 only (PhP 50,587.25) Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on June 5, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at Training Room 3. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) HAZEL JANE M. ORGE
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – May 19 & 24, 2007)

Big guns gear up for Makati Invt'l Derby

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING COCKERS AND GAMEFOWL BREEDERS BATTLE IT out for top honors anew at the Makati Coliseum in the Makati Invitational 8-Cock Derby slated May 28, 30 and June 1. Promoter WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. has staked a guaranteed prize of P3 million for an entry fee of P33,000 in the derby sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. Jun Pascual of Laguna, the surprise solo champion in the 100-entry Makati International Derby last February, will again field his Tranka Bay entry. With only three wins to show going into the 4-cock finals, Pascual zoomed to the top after piling up four more victories.

PadyakPinoy

TEAM - RACE RESULTS
Stage 2 - Quezon City - Cabanatuan

1.	COSSACK VODKA	11h17'32.10"
2.	Mail More	11h17'19.08"
3.	VELLUM CYCLES	11h17'19.08"
4.	CALTEX	11h17'19.08"
5.	COOL PAP The Extra Strength Sports Plaster	11h20'25.74"
6.	Champion	11h21'51.55"
7.	Bacchus	11h23'24.08"
8.	WOW!	11h23'30.08"
9.	AIR 21	11h23'34.08"
10.		11h23'34.08"
11.	CARGOHAUS	11h26'48.98"
12.	VisMin SELECTION	11h30'03.88"

www.padyakpinoy.com.ph

INDIVIDUAL - RACE RESULTS

1. ESPIRITU, VICTOR -WOW MAGIC SING 02h53'17"
2. FELICIANO, FREDERICK - VELLUM 02h53'21"
3. OBOSA, ERICSON - BACCHUS 02h53'21"
4. BENOSA, ALVIN - U-FREIGHT same
5. BARNACHEA, SANTY - CHAMPION 02h53'23"
6. QUIRIMIT, ARNEL - MAIL & MORE same
7. REYNANTE, LLOYD LUCIEN - AIR21 02h53'25
8. CARRERA, SHERWIN - CALTEX 02h53'25"
9. ATILANO, EMELITO - CARGOHAUS 02h53'29"
10. RAVINA, BALER - COOL PAP same

TANDUAY

SPORTS WATCH

SJC 7-cocker finals gets going

MORE THAN 80 CHAMPionship matches are on the roster for today's "Bugbugan 7-Cock Derby" sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 at the San Juan Coliseum. Out of the 60 participants who saw action in the eliminations last Thursday, 40 made it to the 4-cock finals. The champion or champions will receive a guaranteed prize of P3 million, said hosts Louie Cua and Dori Du of Davao. Meanwhile, the seventh leg of SJC Cockers Club 4-Cock Derby series resumes on May 23. Also slated at the venue is the SJC International 8-Cock Derby on June 11, 13 and 15. For inquiries, call 725-5369, 725-6563.

50 fights on tap in Las Piñas

SOME 50 ENCOUNTERS will spice up the showdown between Cavite and Metro Manila cockers today in a special 3-cock derby at the Las Piñas Coliseum. The winners will receive a cash prize of P300,000, said host Eddie Alejandro. Participants must submit entries today from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910 or 0926-7450375. The venue's "Sunday Hackfight Concierto" starts at 8 a.m. tomorrow, with over 100 fights lined up. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias said the first 20 winners will get a bonus of P1,000 each.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **BIR to probe** tax payments of insurance companies /B8

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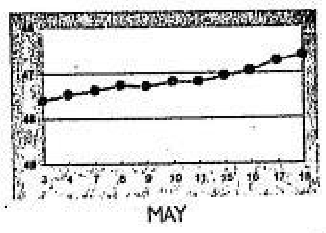
Swabe ang dating, Lakas ng hatak. Max. Diesel Max.
PETRON DIESEL MAX

Gov't posted ₱12-B budget surplus in April

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 46.60 = $ 1

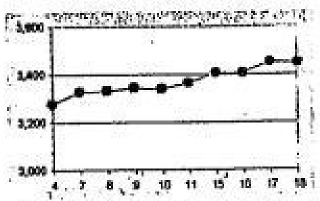
As of 5 p.m., May 18, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares hit new record

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.92 PERcent higher yesterday, lifting the main index to a record level as investors ignored Wall Street's retreat and focused on the domestic economy, dealers said.

SHARES/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Election spending ban helped trim expenses

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POSTED A BUDget surplus of P12 billion in April, aided by a spending ban in the run-up to the May 14 elections that prohibited expenditures for new infrastructure projects.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that the surplus for the month resulted from the P101.2 billion worth of revenues collected and P89.2 billion worth of expenditures.

The April fiscal performance brought the government's budget position for the first four months of the year to a deficit of P40 billion, an improvement from the P52-billion shortfall recorded as of the first quarter.

The government is prohibited from spending on new infrastructure projects 45 days before a national election. This means that within that period, the government could only spend on infrastructure projects that have been started prior to the spending ban.

But Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said that aside from the spending ban, the underspending also had to do with absorptive-capacity problems of line agencies. He said some departments were having a hard time spending the budget allocated to them for a given period partly because of bureaucratic processes in procurement.

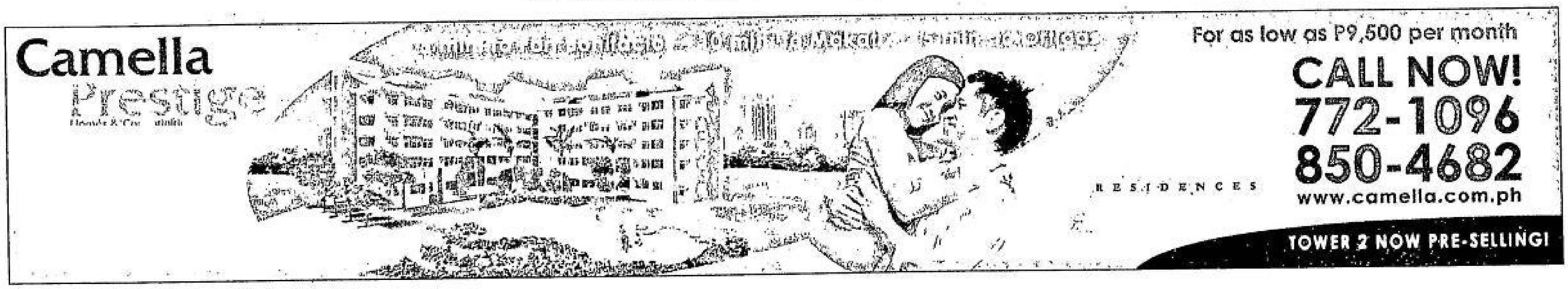
Earlier, the budget department warned line agencies against underspending, saying their respective budget for the rest of the year would be withheld if they did not spend according to what has been programmed.

The P12-billion surplus in April meant that the government still had to record a P2.6-billion surplus in May and June to meet the fiscal target for the second quarter. The government has set a goal of posting a P14.6-billion surplus for the three months to June.

For the first half, the government has set a goal of posting a deficit of only P31.2 billion. This means the government has to work on trimming the P40-billion deficit so far recorded in the first four months of the year.

For the entire year, the government's target is to limit the deficit to P63 billion, lower than the

GOV'T/B2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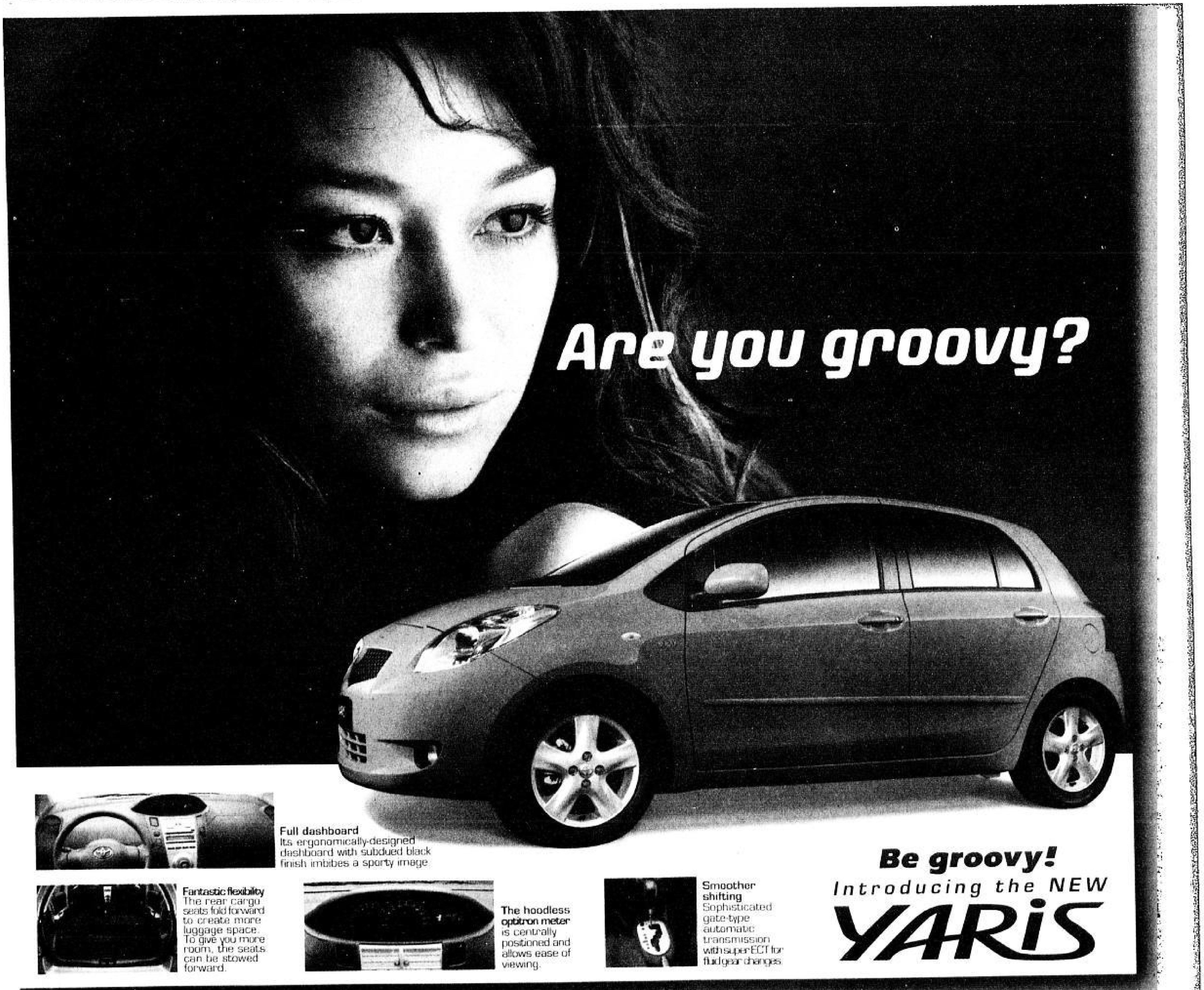
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2 of 3 mine firms post losses

Philex seen doing well; Lepanto, Semirara report drop in income

By Amy R. Remo

WHILE THE MINING SECTOR REmains optimistic in attracting $6.5 billion in foreign investments to revive the industry, two local firms have reported losses in the first quarter of the year.

Although Philex Mining Corp. fared well the previous quarter, Semirara Mining Corp. posted a drop in net income while Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. reported a huge net loss during the same period.

Philex Mining said that its consolidated net income in the first quarter amounted to P1 billion, almost twice the P574.5 million it posted in the same period last year.

Philex also reported an increase in the volume of metals sold this year, which coincided with the rise in metal prices, boosting its first quarter operating revenue to P2.8 billion from P2.1 billion last year.

There were 11.9 million pounds of copper, and 39,695 ounces of gold—from 20,188 tons of concentrates—shipped out last quarter, compared to the 9.4 million pounds of copper and 25,425 ounces of gold from 20,082 tons of concentrates sold in 2006.

Metal prices during the first quarter averaged $2.93 a pound for copper and $640 per ounce for gold. Last year, metal prices averaged $2.50 a pound for copper and $561 per ounce for gold.

The increase in operating revenue was, however, partially offset by the increase in operating costs and expenses of P1.2 billion from P1.1 billion.

According to Semirara Mining, the 56-percent decline in net income to P120 million, from last year's P270 million, was due largely to a 13-percent decrease in average composite prices.

For this period, composite average price amounted to P1,926.68 a metric ton, dropping from the previous year's P2,224.83 a metric ton.

The decrease was attributed to the strengthening of the peso against the dollar, and the lower "agreed prices" with customers set earlier this year.

Local coal prices are benchmarked with international prices.

Total sales volume, however, increased 10 percent to 663,018 MT from last year's sales volume of 600,026 MT.

Despite the increased sales volume, coal revenues meanwhile decreased by 6 percent to P1.277 billion in the first quarter of the year, from P1.356 billion in the same period last year.

Lepanto Consolidated Mining reported a huge net loss of 56.5 million, from 4.3 million in the same period last year, due mainly to steep operating costs amounting to P522 million.

While Lepanto's sales increased by 9 percent to P503 million from last year's P461 million, the bulk of which was used to pay off operating expenses.

Its copper concentrate value declined to P28 million from P81 million, while parts and supplies rose from P358 million to P385 million.

Metro Pacific eyes $15.9-M loan to sink into MMC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS Corp. (MPIC) secured the approval of its board to negotiate and secure loans worth $15.89 million from Metro Pacific Holdings Inc. (MPHI) and US fund manager Ashmore Fund to finance MPIC's proposed investment in Makati Medical Center Inc.

MPIC will subscribe to the convertible notes to be issued by Medical Doctors Inc.—owner and operator of Makati Medical.

The loans are convertible to a certain number of common shares in Metro Pacific Investments. MPIC is keen on making investments in healthcare and power generation. MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan earlier said that MPIC might acquire one or two hospitals possibly in key provincial cities to replicate the success of Makati Medical Center, where MPIC will own 33 percent.

"The successful experience of Makati Med can be replicated in other hospitals not only in Metro Manila but in other major provincial cities, and we will continue to look at infrastructure projects, expanding Maynilad's operations and (investing) in power," Pangilinan said.

MPIC has agreed to subscribe to P750 million in convertible subordinated notes out of a total offer by Makati Med of P900 million worth of notes. The proceeds will fund, in part, Makati Med's new medical building and to upgrade existing hospital facilities and equipment.

The investment is expected to be completed this month. Upon conversion, MPIC's subscription in Makati Med will be approximately 33 percent.

Makati Med's unaudited first quarter net income this year rose sharply by 66 percent to P61.6 million against the P37.2 million posted in the same period last year.

Makati Med now has 600 beds. Pangilinan said he would like to create a hospital system that would service more than 1,000 beds.

In the power sector, MPIC sources said the company is looking at all assets for sale by the National Power Corporation. The group however has not identified possible targets.

MPIC's board earlier approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P4.6 billion to P10 billion, equivalent to 10 billion common shares.

The increase is being undertaken to accommodate investments being made in Makati Med and Maynilad Water Services Inc., and for other investments in the future.

Nido Petroleum of Australia mulls over public offering

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN COMPANY NIDO Petroleum Ltd. is considering listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange, in a bid to raise more cash for its exploration projects.

In a briefing yesterday, Nido deputy managing director Joanne Williams said good prospects for the company in the Philippines, as well as the strong performance of the local bourse these past months have prompted Nido to consider a public offering.

"We're seeing extraordinary growth in the market. We're planning a listing in the Philippines, but we're really just evaluating that option at this time," she said.

No timetable or number of shares to be issued had been set for the initial public offering, however.

"It's really just a plan right now. If we're going to list here, it has to be a reasonable portion (of our shares) to make the market work for us," she said.

She said Nido was still trying to find partners that could help it further develop its service contracts within the Northwest Palawan basin.

These partners could be major oil companies or large independent firms with enough expertise on petroleum exploration and development, she said.

"It's not really the money that we're after, but the capability to explore such a huge area," she said. "We're talking to a number of companies right now.

Nido managing director David Whitby said the company was willing to retain only a 20-30 percent stake in its service contracts—from the current 60 percent—just to let other entities participate in its projects.

"Our 60-percent stake in each of our service contracts is still a lot. What we want is to spread the risk around and get more activity (on the petroleum blocks). If we take in partners, we can drill more wells, and increase our chances of making a hit," he said.

He added that Nido, with its market capitalization of A$249 million ($204 million), was not looking for partners to fund its projects, but entities that had enough expertise to ensure maximum yield from its service contracts.

Nido holds interests in service contracts 6B, 14, 54, 58 and 63, all located within the Northwest Palawan basin. These service contracts cover an area spanning more than 3 million ha.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

P64.8 billion recorded last year.

"We are keeping our goal of hitting a P63-billion deficit this year and posting a balanced budget by 2008," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing yesterday.

Of the P101.2 billion in revenue collection in April, P75.8 billion was accounted for by the Bureau of Internal Revenue while another P17.2 billion was contributed by the Bureau of Customs.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects the share of the national government in the earnings of state-owned firms, collected P4.8 billion.

Of the P89.2 billion worth of expenditures in April, P20 billion were used to pay interest on government loans while the rest were used to pay salaries of government employees and implement state projects and programs.

Teves said the government would work on meeting its full-year deficit reduction target by implementing administrative measures to improve tax collection and by pursuing privatization efforts.

He said the government targets to sell its 781 million shares in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and its 28-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. by the third quarter. Rough estimates said the government could generate P50 billion from its SMC shares and another P5 billion from the sale of its Meralco shares.

Shares . . .

From page B1

The composite index added 31.49 points to 3,449.18, erasing the previous closing record of 3,447.60 set on Feb. 3, 1997, shortly before the Asian financial crisis. A total of 3.1 billion shares worth P9.7 billion were traded. *(See story on page 1.)*

Fresh from US listing, RP firm eyes 6th call center

By Ronnel W. Domingo
and Riza T. Olchondra

AFTER CHALKING UP A MILESTONE as the first Philippine business process outsourcing to get listed on a United States stock exchange, eTelecare Global Solutions Inc. has announced that it will open its sixth call center—a 3,000-seat facility in Mandaluyong City.

The outsourcing firm has also set its revenue target for the year at close to $260 million.

The new call center, located at the Annex@Shaw facility in Mandaluyong City, has a total area of 13,000 sq. m. This will be its 13th site worldwide.

In the Philippines, eTelecare has a contact center in Makati City, another in Quezon City, two in Muntinlupa City and one in Cebu City.

In the United States, the firm has three centers in Arizona, two in North Dakota, one in South Dakota and one in New Mexico.

eTelecare has a total of about 10,000 employees, with some 73 percent based in the Philippines. The new call center would raise the ratio to about 80 percent, with a total of nearly 13,000 workers.

eTelecare made the announcement barely a month after it completed its $74-million initial public offer at the Nasdaq in the United States, part of proceeds from which was meant to fund expansion efforts.

John Harris, company president and chief executive, said in a statement that eTelecare's successful Nasdaq IPO affirmed that the Philippines was one of the top outsourcing delivery locations in the world.

Fred Ayala, eTelecare chair, yesterday told reporters at the corporate headquarters in Eastwood Cyberpark that its $260-million revenue target for 2007 is about 30 percent higher than the actual revenue of $195 million it posted in 2006.

As for net profit, the company is targeting $22 to $25 million for 2007, around 10 percent higher than the net income of $12.2 million in 2006.

Ayala said there is much room for growth for eTelecare, and the BPO industry in general, because its biggest customer base, the United States, has become a $52-billion market that outsources only about $35 billion of potential business.

More concretely, the company intends to reach this target by building a bigger client base in three core areas: High-tech support for enterprises, advanced sales and financial services bundled with customer services.

Another way for eTelecare to improve its numbers is by paying off debt,, which the company did after getting its $79-million windfall from its Nasdaq offering on March 28, CFO Michael Dodson said.

"We paid off $36 million in debt from the proceeds of that offering," he said.

He also said that the company is developing a financial hedging program to cushion it from the impact of the strengthening peso.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 17, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	11,000
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	69	68	69	2,805,700
65.5	30.5	Banco de Oro Universal Bank	64	65	64	65	381,600
935	630	China Banking Corp.	920	920	920	920	4,520
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	600
119	60	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	111	114	110	114	200,660
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	4,170,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	63.5	64	63	63.5	1,356,400
55	30.5	Philippine National Bank	47	47	47	47	22,800
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	1,300
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29	30	29	29.5	3,516,600
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	84	84	84	84	231,900
65.77	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	62	62.5	62	62	857,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.7	60,000
7.7	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	141,000
2,000.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	560
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	23,369,000
2.4	0.97	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc	2.36	2.38	2.36	2.38	56,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	600	600	590	600	1,200
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,195.00	2,195.00	2,195.00	2,195.00	690
1.94	1.02	Vantage Corp	1.76	1.76	1.7	1.7	4,197,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.37	0.16	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,300,000
62.5	41	First Gen Corp.	59	60	59	59.5	1,319,700
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75	78.5	75	78.5	1,662,600
12.75	6.6	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	2,520,100
87	13	Manila Electric Co. "A"	80	87	80	87	1,131,500
87.5	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	80	87.5	80	87.5	5,558,500
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	10,527,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp	5	5.2	5	5.1	15,538,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	3,649,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	106,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.22	2.26	2.2	2.2	1,261,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	11,600
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53.5	53	53	381,000
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	677,000
4.05	2.34	Roxas Holdings	2.42	2.42	2.38	2.38	15,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	74	76.5	72	76.5	380,800
88	68	San Miguel Corp. "B"	77.5	81.5	77.5	80	194,500
22	15.75	Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	16	15.75	15.75	2,277,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.3	1.07	EEI Corp.	5	5.3	4.95	5.3	4,506,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.9	9.2	8.9	9	207,000
7.5	2.04	Philippine National Const. Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,000
7	1.1	Republic Cement Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	20,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.82	4,931,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	3,184,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	310,000
0.0925	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.07	7,100,000
0.97	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.89	0.94	0.87	0.93	126,980,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	30,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	77,500,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	20,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	9	8.8	9	7,033,000
0.016	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	63,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.5	6.9	6.5	6.7	16,156,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.78	0.83	0.78	0.83	880,000
2.26	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.12	5,711,000
10	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. "A"	6	6	6	6	5,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	520	520	515	520	68,640
14	7.92	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14	14	14	14	2,000
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	94,000
4.45	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.8	4.05	3.8	3.95	32,830,000
9.1	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.6	9	8.6	8.9	3,076,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	251,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	12,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12	12	12	543,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
13.25	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	11	11.75	1,493,300
4.55	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.1	4.15	4,318,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.6	190,000
1.26	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	80,000
0.5	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	9,390,000
422.5	205	SM Investments Corp.	417.5	422.5	417.5	422.5	269,290
0.58	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.46	0.58	0.46	0.58	375,440,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
1.38	0.68	South China Resources Inc	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	35,000
0.74	0.06	Weltex Industries Inc	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.16	23,040,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.68	1.8	1.66	1.78	7,501,000
15.75	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	45,332,100
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.44	66,144,000
3.2	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.15	4,363,000
4.5	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.45	564,000
4.2	1.42	City and Land Developers Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.1	15,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	60,000
0.54	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.48	0.51	0.48	0.51	5,420,000
0.54	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.52	15,030,000
0.31	0.14	EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	630,000
3.1	0.64	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	535,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	19,230,000
0.195	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.17	0.195	55,770,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.8	8,140,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.9	1.82	1.88	74,347,000
0.33	0.05	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,000,000
0.33	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	90,000
3.35	2.04	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	2,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	4,210,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.72	1,460,000
0.034	0.011	Marsteel Consolidated Inc. "A"	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3,900,000
0.036	0.014	Marsteel Consolidated Inc. "B"	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,700,000
4.05	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	4.05	3.9	3.95	91,111,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.6	216,000
0.26	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.6	0.62	6,350,000
3.5	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3	186,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	12,223,900
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	511,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	3,952,200
0.27	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.215	0.195	0.21	21,250,000
1.74	0.3	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc	1.32	1.4	1.32	1.34	2,377,000
		MEDIA					
32	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	31	31.5	31	31.5	75,000
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	101,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.58	1.6	5,712,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,340.00	1,345.00	1,340.00	1,340.00	60,920
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,525.00	2,555.00	2,520.00	2,540.00	55,540
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,102,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,000,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.4	216,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7	7.1	6.9	7	1,324,000
0.075	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
2.9	1.78	Ionics Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.18	2.18	184,000
0.0675	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0675	7,000,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.44	310,000
0.06	0.025	PhilWeb Com Inc	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	72,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.12	2.18	2.12	2.18	177,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.86	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	142,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	82,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	366,000
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.94	800,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	1,306,000
0.54	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.5	12,480,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.97	5,390,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	People Inc	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.7	43,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
18	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.6	32,000
4.4	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.25	2,162,000
16.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	16	15.25	15.75	1,589,800
30	9.5	Paxys Inc	26.5	27	26.5	27	208,500
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	113,000,000
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	376,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	330,000
2.22	0.0602	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.12	2.22	2.1	2.2	91,694,000
0.38	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	14,620,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	3,160,000
0.037	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.037	654,200,000
0.04	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	214,200,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	57,800,000
5.6	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	7,142,000
0.87	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.74	0.74	470,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	5,455,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	12,730,000
0.018	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	144,800,000
0.019	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	3,400,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	67,900
0.018	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	255,900,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

May 18, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.740960	1.000000	46.7900
Japan	Yen	0.006108	0.008244	0.3857
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463026	1.974500	92.3869
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094744	0.127866	5.9829
Switzerland	Franc	0.603831	0.814930	38.1306
Canada	Dollar	0.674643	0.910498	42.6022
Singapore	Dollar	0.486194	0.656168	30.7021
Australia	Dollar	0.608642	0.821423	38.4344
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.965568	2.652731	124.1213
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.197573	0.266645	12.4763
Brunei	Dollar	0.484604	0.654022	30.6017
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000114	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022385	0.030211	1.4136
UAE	Dirham	0.201754	0.272287	12.7403
European Union	Euro	1.000000	1.349600	63.1478
Korea	Won	0.000799	0.001078	0.0504
China	Yuan**	0.096596	0.130366	6.0998
Argentina	Peso	0.240963	0.325203	15.2162
Brazil	Real	0.378620	0.510986	23.9090
Denmark	Kroner	0.134154	0.181054	8.4715
India	Rupee	0.018251	0.024631	1.1525
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217930	0.294118	13.7618
Mexico	New Peso	0.068586	0.092563	4.3310
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540965	0.730087	34.1608
Norway	Kroner	0.122366	0.165145	7.7271
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012191	0.016453	0.7698
South Africa	Rand	0.105625	0.142552	6.6700
Sweden	Kroner	0.108372	0.146259	6.8435
Syria	Pound	0.014274	0.019264	0.9014
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022251	0.030030	1.4051
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000345	0.000466	0.0218

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 17, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of May 17, 2007

JP Morgan turns 'very bullish' on RP

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES GIANT JP Morgan is telling investors to fatten their exposure in the Philippines as the country's prospects are boosted by low interest rates, a strong peso, reforms in the power sector, an encouraging mining industry and the government's mega-infrastructure spending.

Following a briefing at the Makati Shangri-La late Thursday, JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd. chief Asian and emerging markets equity strategist Adrian Mowat said JP Morgan was keeping its "overweight" call on the Philippines and advises investors to increase their holdings in the country.

It was JP Morgan's first investor conference since the Asian financial crisis in the Philippines, luring around 80 fund managers, mostly from abroad.

"Now investors are waking up to this market (the Philippines) and people are increasingly going to a plane and coming back to Manila," Mowat said.

"You live in a relative world when you look at emerging markets. The Philippines only started performing in August last year. The reforms in the power sector are all relatively new, the movement in onshore bond yields are relatively new," Mowat said.

JP Morgan Securities Philippines Inc. head of equity research Kelly Lim-Bate said there were four key drivers that would keep investors glued to the Philippine growth story this year.

She said these were a strong peso due to the country's similarly robust balance of payments position; interest rates which will continue to be low and, in turn, spur loan growth; the government's P1.7-trillion infrastructure spending program, and the foreign direct investments coming back into the country—specifically in manufacturing, power and mining.

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Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 29, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 30, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to withhold the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 31, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2007. Any proxies so received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 16, 2007

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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THE BIG STORY IN ALABANG

Portofino: A masterpiece development Right here, right now.

Something big has been happening in Alabang; in a development that is now quickly becoming the core of Metropolitan South: Portofino.

A Lifescape by Brittany Corporation, the maverick of the real estate industry, Portofino is a masterpiece development artfully created in the spirit of the Italian Old World.

In demand

Portofino's masterplan is expressed on a 300-hectare canvas of gentle rolling terrain. Both lots and home and lot packages are in great demand. In fact, the initial development of 100 hectares is 80% sold. The enclaves of Portofino Heights and Courtyards I of Portofino completely sold out and customers quickly acquired 90% of Portofino South. With demand for Portofino homes continuously rising, Brittany immediately developed expansion areas that are selling as briskly. Courtyards II of Portofino, Amore of Portofino and the enclave for WideLot homes are now available.

Greater accessibility, greater convenience

Today, many roads lead to Portofino. One can take the Filinvest Toll Exit then the Daang Hari Link Road and Molino Boulevard. The latest access road, the San Pedro, Laguna Link Road provides another convenient point of entry. Soon the Daang Hari-South Luzon Exchange will provide a direct link from the South Luzon Expressway. The Php1.38 billion Daang Hari-South Luzon Exchange is a priority project of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and will soon provide the convenience of reduced drive times to and from Portofino.

The commercial area: in full swing

The commercial area, currently in the full swing of development, will be organized into lifestyle zones. The initial zone features establishments in tune with the Italian passion for life, in which one enjoys life's great pleasures. In the initial commercial zone, Fernbrook, the popular wedding and events venue, will host its first wedding event on December 2007. Bistros, cafes, delis and other shops will go hand in hand with Fernbrook to celebrate la dolce vita.

Within the year, a Petron gas station will open for business with accompanying restaurants and cafes. A Country Club and a Boutique Hotel is slated for development soon.

Complete amenities for the entire family

Portofino Heights and Portofino South will offer complementing amenities. The more formal Portofino Heights' amenities spans 10,000 sq.m. Monte di Portofino - the soon to be opened Clubhouse, has a main ball room and 3 function rooms. Families today are enjoying the Roman bath-inspired lap pool and children's pool along with the gazebo and the surrounding gardens. In the works, a River Park will include a mini-amphitheater and a scenic jogging trail.

The kid-friendly amenities of Portofino South will feature a park, an interactive children's pool with a sloped entry, a bicycle path, an open soccer field and an open pavilion.

With Portofino, Brittany creates a masterstroke in property development. And it is all turning into a reality, in a big way, right here, right now in Alabang.

For previews and inquiries, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Brittany Corporation is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative Lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, Crosswinds, Portofino, Georgia Club, Caribé at The Islands, Avant at The Fort and Mosaic at Greenbelt. With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Get vaccinated,' docs urge

By Tessa R. Salazar

OUR BODIES ARE wonderful defense machines. They are able to fend off most attacks from bacteria and viruses on their own. Sometimes, however, certain bacteria and viruses are potentially too strong or aggressive that without human intervention (via vaccination), entire human populations are in danger of a lifetime of suffering from the debilitating effects of the disease, or of even being wiped out entirely.

Epidemics are pandemics such as those caused by the Spanish Flu in the early 20th century, the Bubonic Plague during the Dark Ages, and more recently the smallpox and poliomyelitis outbreaks, are examples of viral and bacterial attacks that at one time or another threatened the entire human race.

Species-threatening virus

The prospect of another species-threatening virus—the H5N1 strain of the influenza virus more popularly known as the Avian Flu—resurfacing recently in isolated instances in parts of Southeast Asia has sounded alarm bells again for epidemiologists. With a mortality rate of over 50 percent, the Avian Flu virus is shaping up to be a global killer once it figures out how to make that interspecies jump from birds to humans in terms of transmission.

There are currently no avian influenza vaccinations yet. Experts note that current vaccines available for humans reduce risk of dual infection which in turn decreases the opportunity for the virus to exchange genetic material resulting in a new influenza subtype with pandemic potential. Antiviral drugs are available. Therefore the World Health Organization recommends vaccination for veterinarians and farmers.

Intensified drives

In light of such aggressive viruses, doctors in separate press conferences during the past weeks have called for intensified vaccination drives against influenza, diarrhea and pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis.

The WHO, meanwhile, has made some headway in the fight against a number of known deadly infectious diseases. It recently presented the vaccine against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) as protection against pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis for children below 2 years old.

The WHO position paper stressed that "1.6-million deaths were caused by this agent annually. Most of these deaths occur in poor countries, and children aged (below) 2 years are disproportionately represented among these deaths." A Philippine study showed that 78 percent of children afflicted with IPD are aged 2 years old and below. Out of the children studied, 35 percent died of the disease.

Vaccine targets

Dr. Lulu Bravo, Philippine Foundation for Vaccination executive director, said the IPD vaccine targets *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, the bacteria that cause invasive pneumoccoccal disease.

She cited that in one local study among Filipino children, the bacteria kill one out of three it invades. She added that it can also take the lives of apparently health children within 48 hours of the first symptom.

PFV president Dr. Eric A Tayag said that IPD is among the serious diseases that cause death in infants and children.

Beyond control

Infectious diseases, doctors explain, are often beyond any individual's control. Once the bacteria or virus is in circulation among the general human population, very little can be done to stop it unless the population is vaccinated against that virus.

Vaccination works by "preparing" our bodies for the inevitable invasion of these bacteria and viruses. A flu vaccine, for example, contains "weakened" versions of the subject virus. Once the vaccine is injected into our bloodstream, our antibodies are able to easily eliminate them. By the time the actual flu virus manages to enter our bodies, our antibodies recognize the virus as the enemy and has the "blueprint" available to successfully eliminate the invader.

An individual who has not been vaccinated runs the high risk of not only contracting the disease, but passing it on to other nonimmunized individuals.

During a recent GSK vaccination information session, Dr. Salvacion R. Gatchalian, medical director of the clinical R&D and medical affairs of Philippines and Indonesia Glaxo SmithKline Biologicals, cited WHO seasonal influenza epidemics.

She revealed that there are 3 to 5 million cases of severe infectious illnesses that lead to up to 500,000 deaths each year worldwide.

Gatchalian also said that influenza is highly recognized both as an emerging and reemerging viral infection.

Viruses do mutate. Their "blueprint" can change abruptly, leading to the emergence of a new strain, and rendering whole populations susceptible once more, regardless of their being vaccinated for the previous strain. Influenza affects all ages but the risk of complications, hospitalizations and deaths is higher among persons aged 65, and young children and persons of any age with certain underlying health conditions.

Diarrhea

During the GSK press conference, Dr. Lourdes G. Genuino, fellow of the Philippine Pediatric Society, also stressed the importance of being vaccinated for rotaviral diarrhea to avoid death due to diarrhea. She said 14,790 deaths per year are traced to diarrhea.

Genuino said dehydration is the main killer for persons suffering from diarrhea. Manifestations of dehydration are thirst, irritability, sunken eyes, decreased skin turgor and diminished consciousness, which ultimately lead to death.

She revealed that globally, rotaviruses are the most common cause of diarrhea among children less than 5 years old.

During diarrhea, intestinal infection prevents the body from absorbing the needed water and salts, and forcing these essential fluids out of the body as watery stools.

She cited that children in developing countries below the age of 3 may suffer three to 10 episodes of diarrhea each year. By 5, one in five will be forced to visit clinics, one in 65 will be confined in hospitals and one in 293 will die.

Fun with pi

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

QUICK! WHAT IS PI DAY? MARCH 14, of course. Pi, for those who have forgotten, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. In short, divide a the circumference of a circle (any circle) by its diameter, and voila, you get pi!

Pi is an irrational number, which means that it has a never-ending string of decimal places, with no discernible repetitions. Most of us know that pi is approximately 3.14, but Akira Haraguichi of Japan can recite pi accurately to 100,000 decimal places (after 16 hours). Others sing songs, make poems, and do other things just to memorize the digits of pi.

Why do they do it? The usual answer: why do people climb Mount Everest? Because it is there. Because, in an unusual way, it can be relaxing and fun.

Reminiscent of 3 great poets

Mike Keith, a software engineer in the United States, wrote a poem about pi, where the length in letters of each word corresponds to the digits. What makes the feat more amazing is his poem is reminiscent of three great ones: T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Shakespeare's "Hamlet" (Act V) and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven."

"One: A Poem: A Raven" (with number of letters 3, 1, 4, 1, 5) starts this way. Remember to count the letters!

Midnights so dreary, tired and weary,
Silently pondering volumes extolling all by-now obsolete lore.
During my rather long nap—the weirdest tap!
An ominous vibrating sound disturbing my chamber's antedoor.
"This," I whispered quietly, "I ignore."

Perfectly, the intellect remembers: the ghostly fires, a glittering ember.
Inflamed by lightning's outbursts, windows cast penumbras upon this floor.
Sorrowful, as one mistreated, unhappy thoughts I heeded:
That inimitable lesson in elegance—Lenore—
Is delighting, exciting…nevermore.

Intrigued? For the rest of the poem, go to the website http://users.aol.com/s6sj7gt/cadtext.htm. Thank you to my colleague, computer science professor Pablo Manalastas, who alerted me to the cult of pi.

From the mouth of babes

My friend Nerisa Fernandez sends snippets of children's word play. Enjoy!

Three-year-old Pedro prays, "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

Nena, one year older, intones, "And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

The priest asks 5-year-old Maria, "Why should we be quiet in church?" Maria immediately replies, "Because people are sleeping!"

Comic strip for nerds

My friend Alan Batongbacal, computer whiz now in Virginia, recommends this website xkcd.com, which bills itself as "a webcomic of sarcasm, romance, math and language." The site is fun and in its way, strangely touching.

Alan's favorite is comic strip No. 162, on angular momentum. Here a guy sits on the bed and gazes bewilderingly at the woman twirling frantically on her toes on the floor beside him. He asks her what she is doing.

Her answer: "Spinning counterclockwise. Each turn robs the planet of angular momentum, slowing its spin the tiniest bit, lengthening the night, pushing back the dawn, giving me a little more time here with you."

Go to xkcd.com/c162.html. Enjoy!

* * *

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com

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On commitment

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

TWO OF MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASSmates are getting married this week. E-mails and phone calls have sped back and forth between the rest of the *barkada (gang)* since the engagements were announced a year ago. We've discussed possible presents, ogled bridal gowns and engagement rings, sought advice on what to wear, analyzed more possible presents per the registry listings, checked on what everyone else was wearing, bought wedding presents, bought new clothes, made hotel reservations, bought plane tickets, and then, of course, discussed our clothes some more. Who knew, for example, that a pair of black shoes could make for hours of compelling conversation?

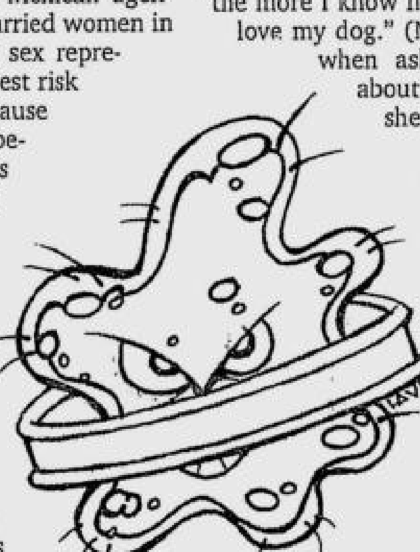
Granted our outfit issues pale in comparison to the promises our friends are about to make. After all, the vows they'll make mention love, mention fidelity, mention forever. And in front of me is a study from the June issue of the American Journal of Public Health titled "The Inevitability of Infidelity."

It's not exactly ideal premarriage reading, but it could have been worse. It could have been a copy of "The Starter Marriage."

Single greatest risk

The six-month study was conducted and reported by Dr. Jennifer Hirsch at Columbia University's School of Public Health, along with colleagues from Emory University and Mexican agencies. It says that for married women in rural Mexico, "marital sex represents their single greatest risk for HIV infection" because the men are raised to believe that masculinity is partly defined by their sexual prowess.

The study was done in Degollado, Mexico, which is located between two states with high rates of HIV infections. Hirsch et al. say that one of these states, Jalisco, has the third highest number of AIDS cases in the country. Degollado has a population of 15,000 but the numbers vary depending on the number of migrant workers away from home at any given time.



Stability

Hirsch et al. focused exclusively on stable, married couples—ranging from newlyweds to grandparents—where neither party was a migrant worker. For many, stability was defined by the fact that the marriage hadn't been dissolved. One man was quoted as saying, "the more I know my wife, the more I love my dog." (Not to be outdone, when asked how she felt about him, his wife said she hated him.)

Both sexes agreed that they married for reasons like love and intimacy, but they apparently disagreed on where such ties existed. The women were raised to be "respectable" and faithful to their spouses. The men followed the unwritten code of knowing where it was appropriate to go and with whom. For example, the existence of a mistress—someone who provides (sexual) pleasure but who isn't important enough to leave the mother of one's children for—could be tolerated for as long as she wasn't flaunted in specific public places.

Infidelity

Not all the men interviewed in Degollado were unfaithful, but infidelity is a social norm. To reduce the risk for HIV infections, therefore, Hirsch et al. note that societal and cultural change is required in Degollado. Couples, they suggest, should spend more time together instead of with their friends. There are already campaigns in progress to promote the notions of fidelity and family time as being essential to masculinity, instead of sexual prowess and experience.

The recommendations Hirsch et al. noted could help change the odds for HIV infection rates, and incidentally, for marriage. That said, it's time to toast the change in my friends' lives, and, as another friend gleefully noted, to celebrate the fact that the *barkada*'s ratio of married to single women has finally tilted in favor of the former.

Excuse me while I hunt for those black shoes.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Environment affecting one's looks, health, study says

FILIPINOS' ANXIETIES ABOUT THE DEteriorating environment have moved from being a national issue to one of great personal concern, according to a new study from communications agency Universal McCann. A national poll completed this week, half of those surveyed said the environment was negatively affecting their appearances and health.

Universal McCann's poll was fielded as part of the agency's on-going analysis of trends and influences impacting people's lives, bringing about behavioral changes and shifts in product purchasing decisions.

The distress that people feel personally about the environment revealed a new level of concern to Universal McCann's researchers. The poll, which mainly covered people aged 18 to 40, revealed that 54 percent of people strongly agreed that their environment was having a direct effect on their health, mostly causing allergies and breathing difficulties, while 49 percent said it impacted their appearance, mostly relating to hair and skin care.

Overall, environmental pollution (77 percent) and global warming (75 percent) are the two factors more concerning to Filipinos than crime and violence (71 percent), the cost of living (67 percent). Other concerns are government corruption (66 percent) and poverty (62 percent).

Worsening situation

Such strong feelings have galvanized Filipinos' opinions on actions and responsibilities to do with the worsening environmental situation. Among those surveyed, 74 percent said companies and businesses need to do more to preserve the environment. Real strength of opinion was also directed toward government, where 76 percent said stricter regulations with steep fines are needed to ensure people do more to protect the environment. National government bodies (82 percent) need to act more strongly and local government was also singled out (77 percent).

The study by Universal McCann, also revealed changing aspects of peoples' behavior with environmental issues impacting their lives. People said they were more likely to buy brands that are seen to be environment-friendly (47 percent) but then 54 percent also said that most brands claiming to be "green" were simply paying lip service to the issues. The poll also revealed that 62 percent of people felt there was an economic benefit for companies to be more environment-friendly.

Care for environment

At the personal level, the two top initiatives that people undertook relating to environmental care were recycling (87 percent) and watching environmental documentaries (62 percent).

Overall, 61 percent of people said they were making efforts to care for the environment, but only 16 percent felt their initiatives were making an impact. Also in the poll, 15 percent of people said they were concerned about the issue but believed it was too hard to make an impact.

"Clearly large sections of the population have a higher sense of urgency about the environment than many people realize," Universal McCann CEO Venus Navalta said. "While the traditional media has been carrying quite high-profile coverage on the issues, we also have a very strong sense that the new digital mediums for communications are running hot with commentary and real worries on this subject, particularly among young people.

"So clearly this impacts people's buying decisions in all product categories and this will accelerate at a rapid rate," Navalta said.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

Luring Subic investors, their families to stay much longer

SUBIC HOLIDAY Villas is a masterplanned and self-contained four-hectare leisure and retirement development inside the freeport zone.

By Charles E. Buban

INVESTORS PLANNING TO STAY AT the Subic Bay Freeport in the province of Zambales will find that this former United States naval base 110 kilometers northwest of Metro Manila, offers more than just water recreation facilities, nature-oriented activities and largest duty-free shopping haven.

Recently, there is an influx of property developers wanting to take advantage of the place's strategic location as well a steady arrival of investors and Metro Manila-based vacationers.

One of these newly opened destinations is the Subic Holiday Villas, developed by Starland Properties Inc. and managed by Quantum Hotels and Resorts (www.quantumsuites.com).

"For the past seven years, Quantum Hotels & Resorts has been synonymous with high-quality hospitality lodging, having managed key properties such as the BSA Tower, BSA Suites and Perla Mansion in the Central Business District of Makati and the Malayan Plaza in Ortigas in Pasig City. The Subic Holiday Villas is our first managed development outside Metro Manila not to mention our first assignment in handling a resort-style development," said Joey Bernardino, VP for sales and marketing of Subic Holiday Villas.

Attract investors

He added that the Subic Holiday Villas seeks to attract investors as well as their families.

"However, we are also taking a considerable number of clients, Filipino-Americans and other foreigners who are now reaching their retirement age and wanting to retire or wish to own a property inside the Subic Bay Freeport," Bernardino reported.

Located at the George Dewey Convention Center Complex,

Kalayaan Heights inside the Subic Bay Freeport, Subic Holiday Villas is a masterplanned and self-contained four-hectare leisure and retirement development that offers a wide variety of fully furnished rooms—from studio units to one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites.

"The suites extend to balconies, while the kitchens are ready with refrigerator, stove, microwave/toaster oven, glassware, cutlery and crockery. Furthermore, each unit is equipped with cable network television, individually controlled air-conditioning and hot and cold water in the elegantly tiled bathrooms," Bernardino reported.

Reasons

He explained that Subic Holiday Villas was developed for several reasons: to cater to investors and businessmen by providing them top-notched accommodations while in Subic Bay Freeport, short- or even long-staying adventure-seekers by giving them a conveniently located address that could easily get them to their desired destination, and retirees by offering them a safe, laid back and clean environment, year-round good weather, and proximity to hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Sandwiched by the Zambales mountain range at the east and the Subic Bay at the west (that opens up to the South China Sea), Subic Bay Freeport is naturally sheltered from typhoons as well as from the devastating effects of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

Because of this excellent location, Subic Bay Freeport has maintained its pace as a fast developing industrial and tourism destination as well as a major economic development hub for the provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales.

Special package

To attract even more clients Subic Holiday Villas recently announced a special package by offering introductory rates namely, P3,500 net/room for an overnight stay in a studio room, or a P4,700 net/room for one-bedroom, or a P6,000 net/room for the two-bedroom suite.

"Each of this package will include the use of tropical swimming pool, access to fitness centers, and daily breakfast for two persons booking in the studio and one-bedroom rooms or for four persons in the two-bedroom suite," Bernardino informed.

He added that staying at the the Subic Holiday Villas is ideal as well as cost-wise, considering that the peso or even the dollars that their local and foreign guests will spend will go a long way, thanks to Subic Bay Freeport's duty-free shops and supermarkets.

Also as an accredited facility of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority, generous and extensive incentives await prospective investors (especially foreign and former Filipino citizens), including tax breaks and funding assistance.

Designing in a CADD-enabled world design dimensions

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

A WIDE VARIETY OF SOFTWARE has allowed design and architecture to break out of traditional forms and explore shapes that defy convention. Thanks to newer more sophisticated software that works on a building block system, forms—rather than lines—can now be built up and "sliced" into drawings. Designers are able to play with more fluid shapes and are able to translate concepts into documents with detailed accuracy. The whole process of design and documentation has become quick, precise and seamless.

This advantage proved extremely useful when we conceptualized the food hub for Shell on the South Luzon Expressway with overlapping roofs, walls that flared out, curved glass windows and undulating overhangs. That design would have left our contractors in despair some 20 years ago in the era of pencil and paper, triangles and straight edges. But because we were able to produce as many "slices" of the structure as they needed to understand the relationship of the building elements, the project was completed according to our design intent, and rolled out according to the client's timetable.

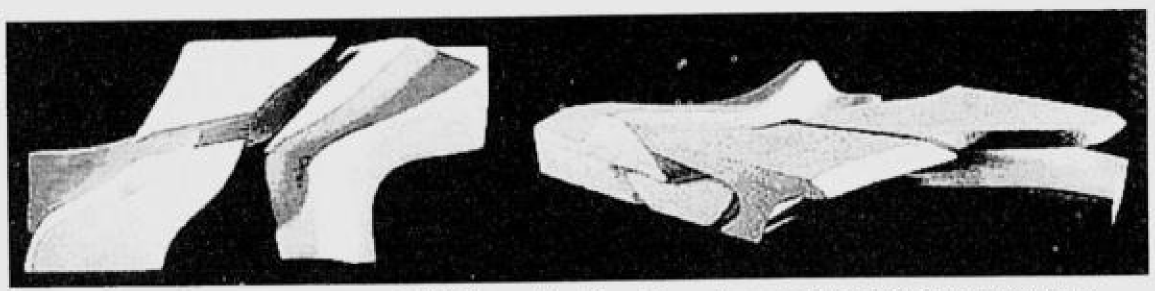
More recently, we thought it would be most appropriate for a Havaianas retail shop at Ayala Land's Trinoma Mall to feature our version of a rolling surfer's wave. We designed a tube to capture the locus of the wave while the opposite wall had an undulating curve perforated with lit ellipses meant to house the slipper display. The funnel flared open at the end, and the curving wall undulated at varying bends.

CADD renderings

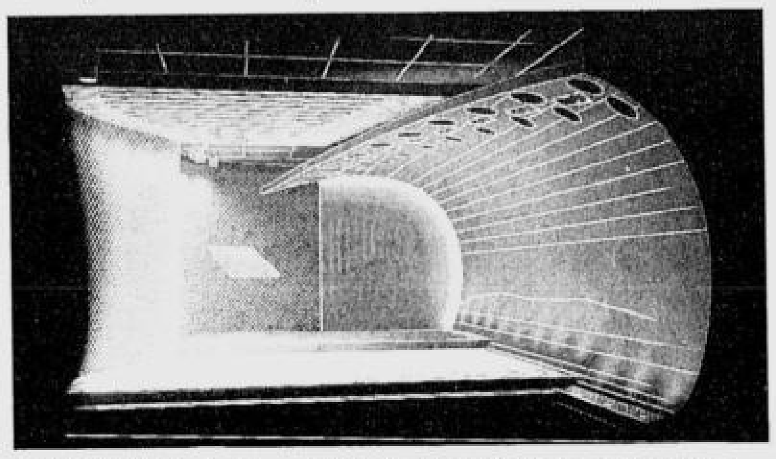
Many years ago, illustrations for this type of a project with free-flowing lines and sweeping planes would have taken weeks to accurately render by hand. Merely getting proportions right would have been daunting. Rendering it in true color would have been even more challenging as colors change when they pick up lights and shadows.

Of course, technology can never replace a designer's artistry and inventiveness. In this regard, technology takes the back seat to human creativity. The value of CADD (that's short for Computer-Aided Drafting and Design) is that it allows a designer, even at the moment of inception, to study what can and cannot work for the final output. Possibilities are quickly verified and no time is wasted on trial-and-error processes.

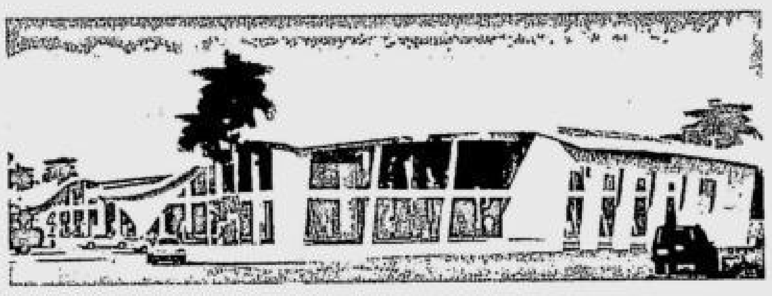
Working drawings—the blueprinted documents used for bidding and construction and which could take as long as eight weeks to draw up—can now be produced at fraction of the time. Perspective drawings too, can now be completed in a few days - even those that illustrate lighting effects. Best of all, CADD renderings are photo-real and can convey the design intent and output very clearly to a client.



STUDY models of furniture pieces designed by forward-thinking architect Zaha Hadid



PRELIMINARY wire frame studies for the All Flip Flops retail shop



ARTIST'S final rendering of the Shell food hub

Dependent on contractors

While visual artists generally don't need any backroom support, architects and interior designers are highly dependent on contractors to translate their ideas into reality. When esthetic language cannot be transformed into drawings and blueprints, they are useless. This was very much the case with one of my favorite female architects, the Baghdad-born, UK-educated, Zaha Hadid. She was tagged a "paper architect" in the 1980s largely because technology could not support her designs. Fortunately, the IT boom of the last 15 years had given her the opportunity to turn her designs into real structures.

The adoption of the new generation of 2D and 3D modeling tools in the design industry has driven international design toward the more complex and dynamic curvilinear concepts. All over the world, designers have become more experimental and aggressive in their approach toward creating habitable artforms. Designers can truly break out of traditional forms and angular geometry and explore forms that defy convention. When creativity is adequately supported by technology, seemingly unattainable design ambitions can be made into realities.

The rainwater harvesting system

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

IN THIS COUNTRY WE HAVE SO much rain that every year we have flooded cities and towns and yet there are times when we turn on the faucet and don't have a drop of water.

While water is admittedly a scarce resource in the tropics, it is a fact that the Philippines has a clearly defined rainy or wet season in which there is much precipitation in the form of rain. This rainwater is typically "wasted" by its flowing into underground sewers (and maybe even flooding) while during the summer months there is a shortage of water.

A green building system that would be very useful in the Philippines would be the rainwater harvesting system. Such a system has the objective of collecting and storing rainwater for domestic uses at a later time. This is specially useful in lowering water bills during times of water shortage. It also lowers the volume of rainwater that passes through sewage systems, while also reaping the environmental benefits of efficient water use.

Setting up system

The very first step would be to determine the intended uses of the saved water. Typically a rainwater harvesting system can be used for watering plants, flushing toilets and for laundry needs. It is also already possible to use rainwater for drinking, though this will entail additional filtration equipment. Different uses for the water will require different processes and equipment.

The main idea behind the use of rainwater collection is the reduction of dependence on commercially available water. Water conservation is actually the main goal of such a system. Since rainwater is free while water utilities come at a price, it definitely wouldn't hurt to use rainwater as much as possible. Today many countries disapprove the common practice of using expensive treated water to irrigate the plants.

The setup of a rainwater harvesting system is basically composed of three subsystems: collection, storage and the distribution.

Rainwater collection

There are definitely many ways in which rainwater can be collected. The simplest form would be to leave a drum or tank open during the rainy season for gardening uses. Other more sophisticated methods would include a coordinated network of gutters and drainpipes that lead the rainwater collected from roof surfaces into a central catch basin.

Roof surfaces that are most suitable for rainwater collection are those which are not made of material that can possibly endanger plant (or human) life, depending on its intended uses, such as asbestos roofs (they are poisonous) and wooden roofs (they can release wood preservatives).

The collection subsystem can also encompass sidewalks and concrete driveways that have access to the rainwater catch basin.

Rainwater storage

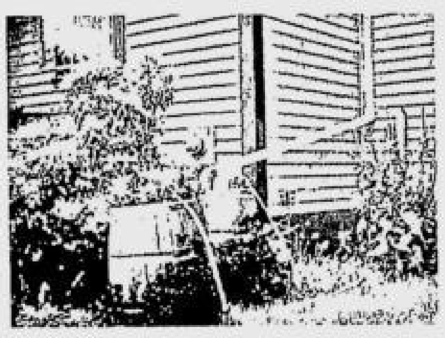
Rainwater is best stored underground since collection will be easier. This is because gravity will bring the rainwater down to the storage tank without the need for pumps.

There are many options for rainwater storage systems that include various types of tanks, filters for partially treating the water and mechanisms for overflowing tanks. These components must be determined accurately for the whole system to work satisfactorily.

Rainwater distribution

Depending on the uses the rainwater is supposed to fill, the distribution network will definitely have to be separate from the regular water pipes. Ground-level water needs may need very little pressure for the water to get around, while higher-floor needs (such as second-story toilets) will have to utilize a pump.

Other rainwater distribution methods would include sprinkler systems that are strategically located to maximize ground area covered while minimizing water expended and direct pipelines to laundry areas (for washing clothes) or even to the garage (for washing vehicles).



A SIMPLE rainwater harvesting system is easy to implement. By connecting the downspouts to drums to collect rainwater, water bills can be reduced while providing water for irrigating plants and flushing toilets. It is a practical way to save on expensive treated water WWW.URI.EDU

Other options

These are only the basic subsystems within the rainwater harvesting system. It goes without saying that many alternatives are possible.

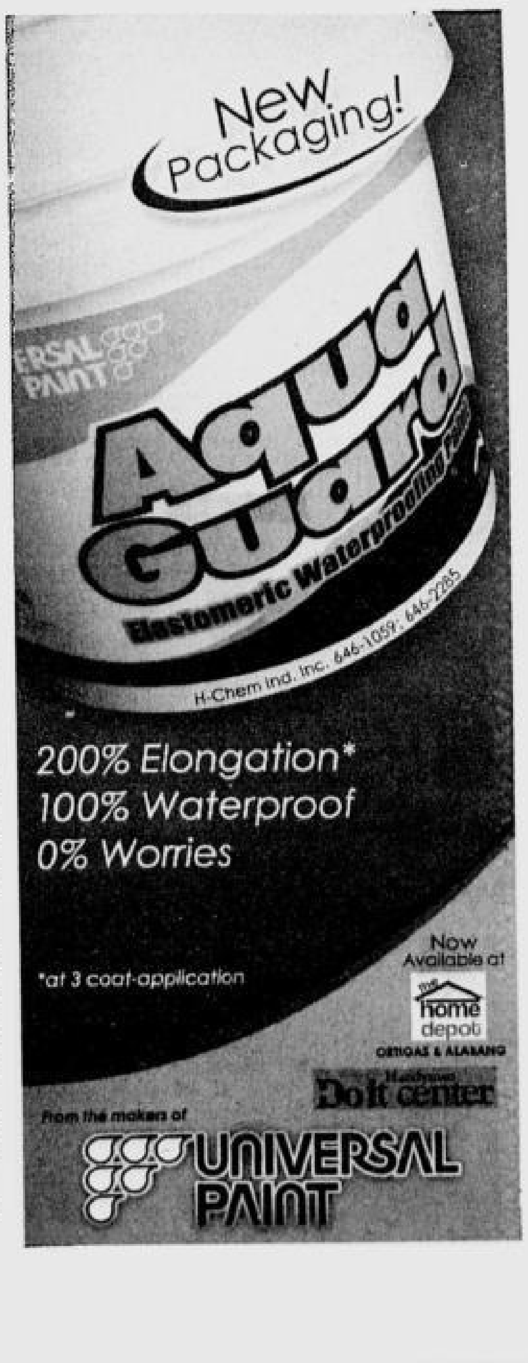
For example, having collection/storage tanks at different levels may work in some situations so that gravity will be the only force needed to distribute water to toilets, instead of using pumps to push water up from a ground-level storage tank.

Cost-benefit analysis

Finally, a cost-benefit analysis is necessary to determine the viability of having a rainwater harvesting system. Undoubtedly, it will be something "green" to brag about, and may even increase a house's real estate value.

However, should it not be planned correctly, the initial expenses incurred in its setup and installation may outweigh the water savings, by having a long payback period. Sometimes the energy costs of pumping water may also outweigh the saved water costs. This is why a rainwater harvesting system must be planned and studied very carefully before implementation.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com



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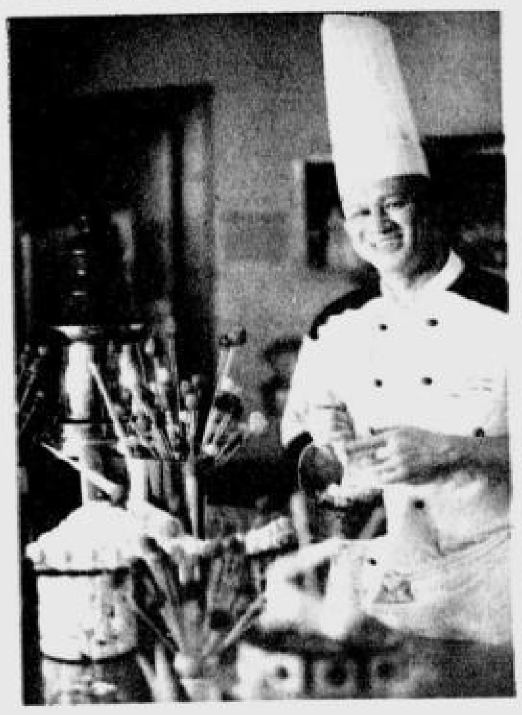
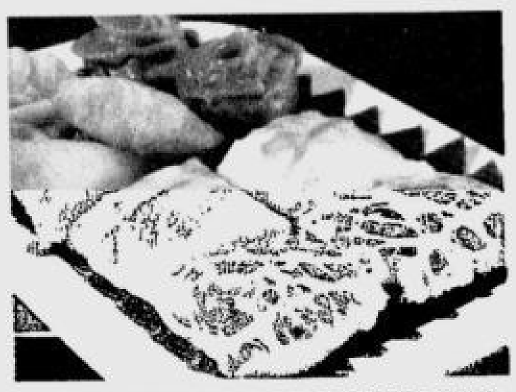
Sweet temptations at InterContinental Manila



EVERYTHING IS SWEET AT INTERCONTINENTAL Manila as new pastry chef Rolando "Mac" Macatangay brings to life his chocolate fantasies at the Café Jeepney this entire month of May. Pastry chef Mac is the newest addition to the InterContinental Manila family. Having worked in numerous 5-star hotels in the country, he brings with him over 20 years of experience in the Pastry department. He has reaped awards in various competitions such as Chefs on Parade, First Asia Food Expo and the World Expo. Chef Mac also finds time to share his talents with others. He is currently teaching in a notable culinary school here in Manila. When asked why he chose pastry-making, he said that it poses no limitations to his creativity.

Partake of the lunch or dinner buffet at Café Jeepney and indulge in Chef Mac's line-up of sweet temptations such as Mississippi Mud Pie, Chocolate Fondue, Chocolate and Mango Mascarpone, Cherry Black Forest and Bittersweet Chocolate Truffle. For reservations please call 815 9711.



CHEF'S SPECIALS AT BENJARONG THAI RESTAURANT

From May 14 to 26, sample Benjarong's 'Chef's Specials' prepared by Chef Tun, offered a la carte. On the menu are Ruam Mit Khong Wang (four kinds of appetizer), Kleuy Tiew Yam Talay (fat noodles with mixed seafood salad, Thai herbs and roast chili sauce), Tom Say Fon (prawn, fish, glass noodle, Chinese cabbage in egg soup), Pla Krapong Tord Kratiam Phrik Thai (deep fried whole seabass with garlic and pepper), and Moo Hor Gung (prawn wrapped in bacon topped with red curry sauce). Benjarong Thai restaurant is located at the mezzanine level of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For inquiries, call 867-3333

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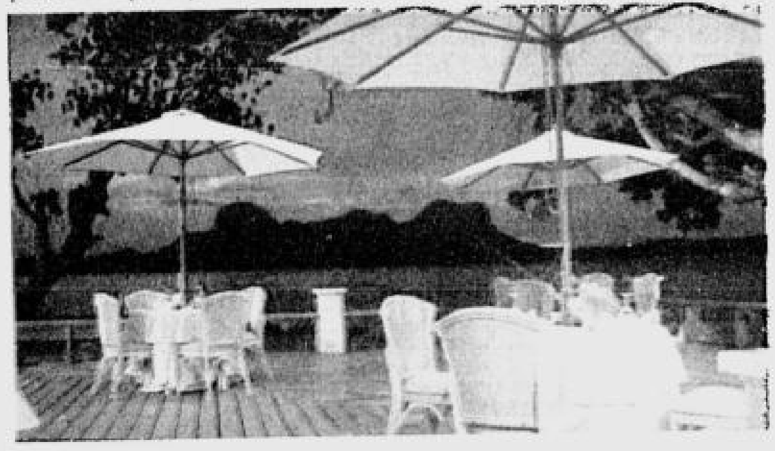
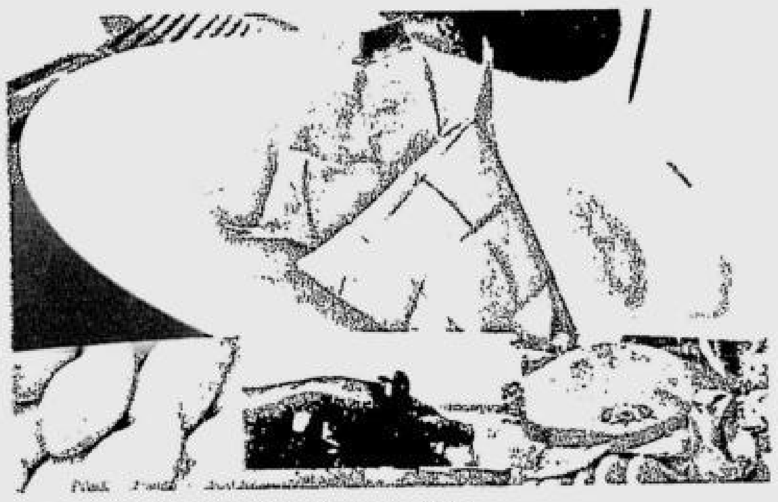
LAMURO RESORT & SPA IS LOCATED IN EL NIDO BAY, 10 KMS. FROM the town of El Nido and just 4 kms from the El Nido Airport. It is a beachfront luxury resort constructed to fit your perfect getaway. It is the most enchanting tropical retreat far away from the maddening din and hustle of city life. The rooms are well designed and priced reasonably. With a very accommodating staff around, who can resist the Lamuro experience. It offers a wholesome and splendid location for family holidays, honeymooners, and adventure-seeking travelers who seek the ideal balance of comfort and nature's wonders. It is indeed a magical place, a perfect seaside haven for refreshing the body and soul. Most locals judge the Lamuro as having the best sunset view. Stare at it, unwind, and surrender to the breathtaking scenery. For more details please call (+632) 682-7168-/682-7170 or 0917-527-9341.





MARCO POLO PLAZA BRINGS CEBU'S FINEST FOOD TO MANILA

Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu City's finest hotel, holds a culinary event entitled 'Flavors of Cebu' at the Tower Club, Makati from May 21 to 25. Three of the hotel's top chefs fly to Manila to enhance the Continental Club's lunch buffet with signature Cebuano delicacies such as "pu-soh" or hanging rice, fresh seafood, mangoes, and of course, the renowned Cebu lechon, which will be shipped fresh daily during the event. In the daily raffle, diners will also get a chance to win exclusive Marco Polo items, as well as a weekend stay in Marco Polo's renowned Presidential Suite, complete with champagne, airport transfers, and free use of the pool and gym. For more information, call April Gonzales at (02)885-7085 or e-mail events@towerclub.com.ph.

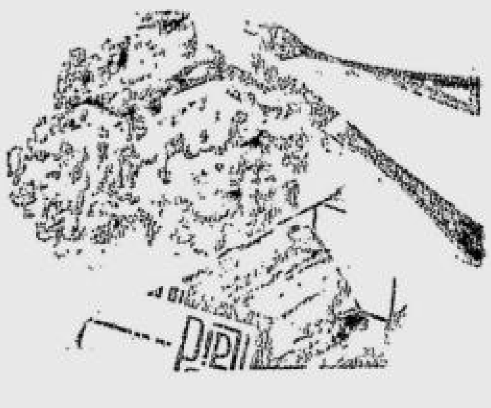
Plaid Sandwich Bar does a rare health convergence

HURRIED HUNGRY OFFICE WORKERS now have a way to get a healthy treat and fast. Plaid Sandwich Bar, an Ortigas corporate neighborhood name for good food, has housed in its 60-square meter area on the ground floor of the Orient Square Building on Ruby Road four other brands that complement its healthy breakfast and lunch meals. Fast but healthy, Plaid has just turned its bar into a food junction fitness buffs would not fear to binge at.

It is a powerful gastronomic fusion at Plaid: Fruit Magic's fruit and vegetable beverages are the freshest you can get. Fiorgelato is a fresh-on-sight ice cream maker-100 percent pure fresh milk whipped with quality ingredients from Italy, right before your eyes. NY Fries and Dips uses no factory-processed potatoes but only nutrient-rich skin-on Idaho Rusette Grade A Potatoes, best ones for French fries. And Sonny's Donuts brown their holed mini-donuts only in canola oil, easy to finish with no lardy smell and taste.

At Plaid, people get the motivation to create their own healthy combinations. A quick and healthy hunger buster can be Plaid's Crabby Wabby, a delectable mix of Japanese crabmeat, mango, cucumber, cheese, mayo, lettuce and tomato squeezed into a pair of wheat bread, washed down with Fruit Magic's green tea shots.

Plaid also offers special promotional packages for corporate meetings and parties. Call 687-5558 or 687-5002 for deliveries of value-priced, high quality, healthy and tasty food…fast!



Things are getting so cool at Segafredo

THINGS ARE GETTING SO COOL AT SEGAFREDO ESPRESSO! JUST WHEN THE WEATHER HAS GONE sizzling hot, the chill is on at this authentic Italian espresso bar that has Summer Promos galore to ice you up. There's a medley of exciting summer coolers - all new ice-cold fruity juices and drinks bursting with the season's luscious flavors: Grape, Cantaloupe and Strawberry all made from fresh fruits of the finest variety. There are also those irresistible spins - what Segafredo calls its blended iced smoothies. Choose from Mango Spin - a symphony of mango puree, vanilla ice cream, milk and whipped cream; Oreo Spin - chocolate ice cream, milk chocolate, dark chocolate chips and whipped cream; or Chocolate Spin - chocolate ice cream, milk chocolate and dark chocolate chips -- a chocoholic's dream come true. There are other cold delights to enjoy : Frozen Capuccino, espresso coffee topped with vanilla ice cream and milk foam for a unique look; Italian Iced Coffee - Espresso Float with a vanilla ice cream "ice berg" floating in the middle; and Caffe Affogato - espresso and ice cream, the way you like it. That's not all. There's always Segafredo's incomparable rich, creamy gelato to delight your senses. Indulge in Pistachio, Strawberry, Cheesecake, Espresso with Irish Cream, Figs and mascarpone, Tiramisu, Choc Nut and Sugar-Free Capuccino to your heart's content. Be a cool dude and shimmy on down to Segafredo Espresso this summer to have a frosty experience. Here's more good news: Segafredo is also bringing back its 20 percent discount on Italian pizzas along with the summer cooler experience. Offer is good till May 31 at all three Segafredo Espresso stores at Greenbelt 3 in Makati, the Second Level of Podium at Ortigas Center and at the I Bank Building in Greenhills along Ortigas Avenue near corner Wilson St. For more information on Segafredo call 892-5011 or visit www.segafredo.it.

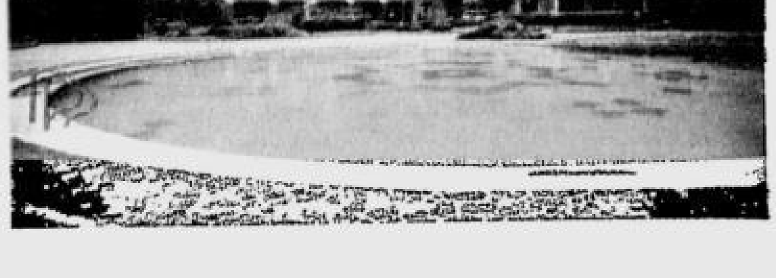
Summer counts at the Subic Holiday Villas

Apart from its sites and celebrations, the best thing about a Subic vacation is having great accommodations. After all, what fun would there be touring and shopping in the Freeport when living arrangements are not as great?

The Subic Holiday Villas, located at the Subic Bay Freeport offers excellent relaxation facilities and amenities for Subic aficionados. Managed by the renowned property management team Quantum Hotels and Resorts, Subic Holiday Villas boasts of fully furnished stylish units (studios, 1 and 2 bedrooms) complete with living, dining, and kitchen facilities. Introductory rates for an overnight stay in a studio room is at P3,500 net/room, one bedroom is at P4,700 net/room, and the two bedroom suite at P6,000 net/room. This includes use of tropical swimming pool, access to fitness centers, and daily breakfast for two persons booking in the studio and one bedroom rooms and for four persons in the two bedroom suite.

And because summer still reigns in Subic, you can still avail of the 4-3-2-1 Summer Countdown Promo on-going until May 31. Book a one bedroom de luxe suite for P4,000++ for the 1st night, P3,000++ for the 2nd night, P2,000++ for the 3rd night, and P1,000++ for the 4th night. This promo is applicable for a minimum of 3 nights' consecutive stay, with the fourth night convertible to a gift certificate which is valid until July 31. Above rate is subject to applicable taxes and service charge. Prior reservations are required subject to space and suite availability.

For more inquiries and reservations, contact 864-0941 or e-mail Quantum Hotels and Resorts at sales@quantumsuites.com or check out the website at www.quantumsuites.com.



Landbank launches ₱1-B fund for farm-based SMEs

Also sets aside ₱1B for equity in microfinance firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED LAND BANK of the Philippines has unveiled two new funding facilities worth P2 billion for microfinance banks and agri-based small and medium enterprises.

In a briefing Thursday night, Landbank president Gilda Pico said the bank recently obtained approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to allot P1 billion in equity infusion for countryside financial institutions engaged in microfinance—the provision of small, uncollateralized loans to the poor to help them start their own businesses.

The second initiative, the P1-billion "Development Advocacy Program (DAP)," offers alternative and more flexible credit schemes to better suit the characteristics, requirements and paying capabilities of small farmers and fisherfolk as well as SME borrowers.

The equity investment program is open to start-up cooperatives, rural or thrift banks established by microfinance non-government organizations or cooperatives as well as those which have been in existence for more than a year and are affiliated with NGOs or cooperatives.

To be eligible for the program, which provides capital instead of loan, these banks must have a microfinance portfolio of at least P20 million or 3,000 active microfinance borrowers at the time of application.

"Through this equity investment program we have set up, Landbank is helping establish new and viable conduits that will cater to the microfinance sector," Pico said.

With this program, she said Landbank hoped to encourage microfinance NGOs or cooperatives to convert into either a thrift, rural or cooperative bank so that they could increase their credit delivery operations and expand their reach to include the marginalized sectors, specifically the small farmers and fisherfolk.

But as a condition for the equity infusion, the countryside financial institution must be able to triple its relending operations to service farming and other livelihood requirements of individual farmers or fisherfolk household within a period of three years from the date of release of Landbank's investment.

These banks must also be able to maintain or build a loan portfolio, majority of which belongs to family of small farmers/fisherfolk or their household members.

The second initiative, DAP, is a nontraditional lending program that veers away from the rigid requirements of collateral-based lending. Instead, it adopts an enterprise-based approach in extending credit and other assistance to small farmers and fisherfolk.

PICO

"Through this innovative program, Landbank is providing our priority sectors with more avenues and windows to encourage them to engage in productive activities to help augment their income. In essence, we are also given the opportunity to assist more poor households," Pico said.

DAP will provide funds for working capital or fixed asset acquisition requirements of cooperatives, federations, associations, NGOs as well as SMEs. The lending facility may be gradually increased based on repayment record and project success.

The program intends to support viable projects with established markets that make use of nontraditional lending modes such as receivables financing, purchase order financing and household cashflow-based financing as well as those that make use of credit enhancement instruments like market contracts or guarantee covers.

Meanwhile, Landbank also announced on Thursday a net profit of P1.05 billion for the first quarter, up 16 percent from the P908 million in the same period last year.

Pico attributed the growth to an increase in fee-based income, reduction in operating expenses by P93 million as well as lower interest expense on deposits.

For the full-year, Pico said the bank has set an internal net profit target or P4 billion. This year's earnings were expected to be supported by increases in loans and investment.

In the first quarter, the bank's revenues inched up by 1 percent to P6.15 billion from a year ago, while the slowdown in interest rates reduced its interest expense on deposits and borrowed funds by 16 and 20 percent, respectively.

"The bank also continued to aggressively expand its deposits and loan portfolio," Pico said.

She noted that in the first three months, deposits reached P280.8 billion, or 19-percent higher than the deposits generated in the same period last year. Capital also rose by 25 percent to P34 billion from P27 billion in the first quarter of 2006.

Landbank's total assets as of end-March rose by 20 percent to P371 billion versus a year ago.

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The course aims to provide participants with the basic theory and update in ultrasound and the technique with practical "hands-on" experience. After the course, the Technician will be expected to attain a minimum level of expertise in doing the procedure based on proper technique and theory.

The program will commence on May 22, 2007. Registration is limited to 15 participants in the CSTC and 3 participants in the PVTTC.

For inquiries or registration requirements and course fees, please contact:

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Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System	Page A9	National Agricultural and Fishery Council	Page A20
		FS Dulalia	Page A24

Republic of the Philippines
MINDORO STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
Alcate, Victoria, 5205 Oriental Mindoro

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- NBI, Sandiganbayan and Previous Employer's Clearances;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer; and
- Certificate of no pending cases issued by the Court where he/she resides.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the College within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician; and
- Under Oath CSC Form 212.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit four (4) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before June 19, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690; Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

MS. FELICITAS R. ULEP
Board Secretary
Mindoro State College
of Agriculture and Technology
Alcate, Victoria, 5205 Oriental Mindoro
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(PDI—May 18, 19 & 20, 2007)

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(PDI - May 19 & 20, 2007)

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
ILOILO CITY

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

The Board of Regents of the West Visayas State University (WVSU), Luna St La Paz, Iloilo City, formally and publicly announces that the **Search for Presidency of the West Visayas State University (WVSU) is NOW OPEN.**

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Preferably be at least thirty five (35) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of the application for the position.
2. Must be a Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of an earned doctoral degree.
4. Must have proven track record as top administrator in academic field such as President, Vice-President, Dean or Campus Director/ Administrator, whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professorial and/ or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the state college/university.
6. Must be of good moral character.
7. Must have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge.

Qualified applicants should submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:

   Hon. Hadja Luningning M. Umar
   Chair of the Board of Regents
   Commissioner, CHED
   Upper 5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
   San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
   Pasig City 1605

2. Curriculum Vitae with certified/authenticated supporting documents.
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the University
4. Results of the Neuro-psychiatric Examination accomplished by a government physician as recommended by the Search Committee.
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a reputable medical center
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under Oath
8. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of Year 2006

Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/ copies on or before June 20, 2007 to either of the following:

Comm. Nona S. Ricafort
Chair, Search Committee
Upper 5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
Pasig City 1605

Attn: Ms. Imelda G. Calvo
Executive Assistant

Comm. Hadja Luningning M. Umar
Chair, Board of Regents
West Visayas State University (WVSU)
La Paz, Iloilo City 5000

Attn: Ms. Belen Carreon
Acting Board Secretary

OBITUARIES

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

In Loving Memory

of

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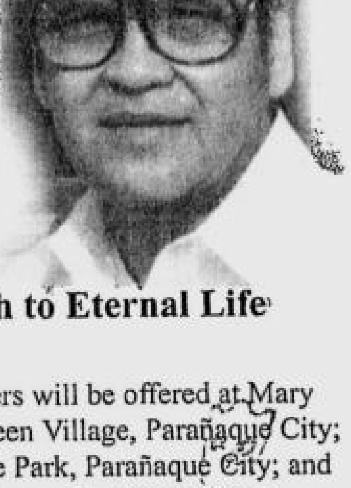
y PERALES



Tenth Anniversary of his Birth to Eternal Life

On the 19th of May 2007, Masses and prayers will be offered at Mary Mother of Good Council Church, Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City; Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church, Merville Park, Parañaque City; and at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

We are grateful to all who keep our beloved **JORGE** in their memory and who continue to pray for him.

Charing, Jojo & Nannette, Mackie & Corito†, Tuttie & Angie, Ricky & Paulette, Chiqui & Pacita, Luis & Chibu, Monchu† and Pegue, grandsons, granddaughters, great-grandsons and great-granddaughters.

Marcela De Vera Celestino

of Marilao, Bulacan

30 Oct 1906 - 16 May 2007

Peacefully joined our Creator on 16 May 2007. Her loving children, Gloria, Lutgarda, and Manuel, grandson Benjo, and other relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing and request to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the South Wing Superior Chapel of the Funeraria Paz Annex, Araneta Ave., QC.

Interment will be on 20 May 2007 at 2:00pm, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, after the 12:00nn Mass. at the Funeraria Paz.

BUSINESS

BIR to probe tax payments of insurance companies

Exec notes 60% drop in collections despite sector's profit growth

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has tasked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to look into the tax compliance of insurance companies after it found out that premium taxes collected from the industry fell 60 percent in the first quarter from a year ago despite reported growth in sales.

"We cannot understand why taxes collected from the industry dropped by about 60 percent when many of them reported double-digit growth in earnings," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said.

Without mentioning names, Beltran noted that the biggest players in the industry posted growth of anywhere between 17 and 20 percent in net income in the first quarter. The increase was assumed to be a result of higher sales of insurance policies, he said.

Beltran said the BIR could use its new tax audit systems to detect which companies should be subjected to tighter investigations.

Under the BIR's benchmarking auditing method, the tax collecting agency uses a benchmark ratio between taxes paid and income earned. If one corporate taxpayer's tax remittance falls substantially below the benchmark, then it will be subjected to investigation.

Beltran said the BIR should link up its database with that of the Insurance Commission and other government agencies that can provide tax-related information. He said the Insurance Commission has already expressed willingness to assist the BIR in the conduct of a tax audit.

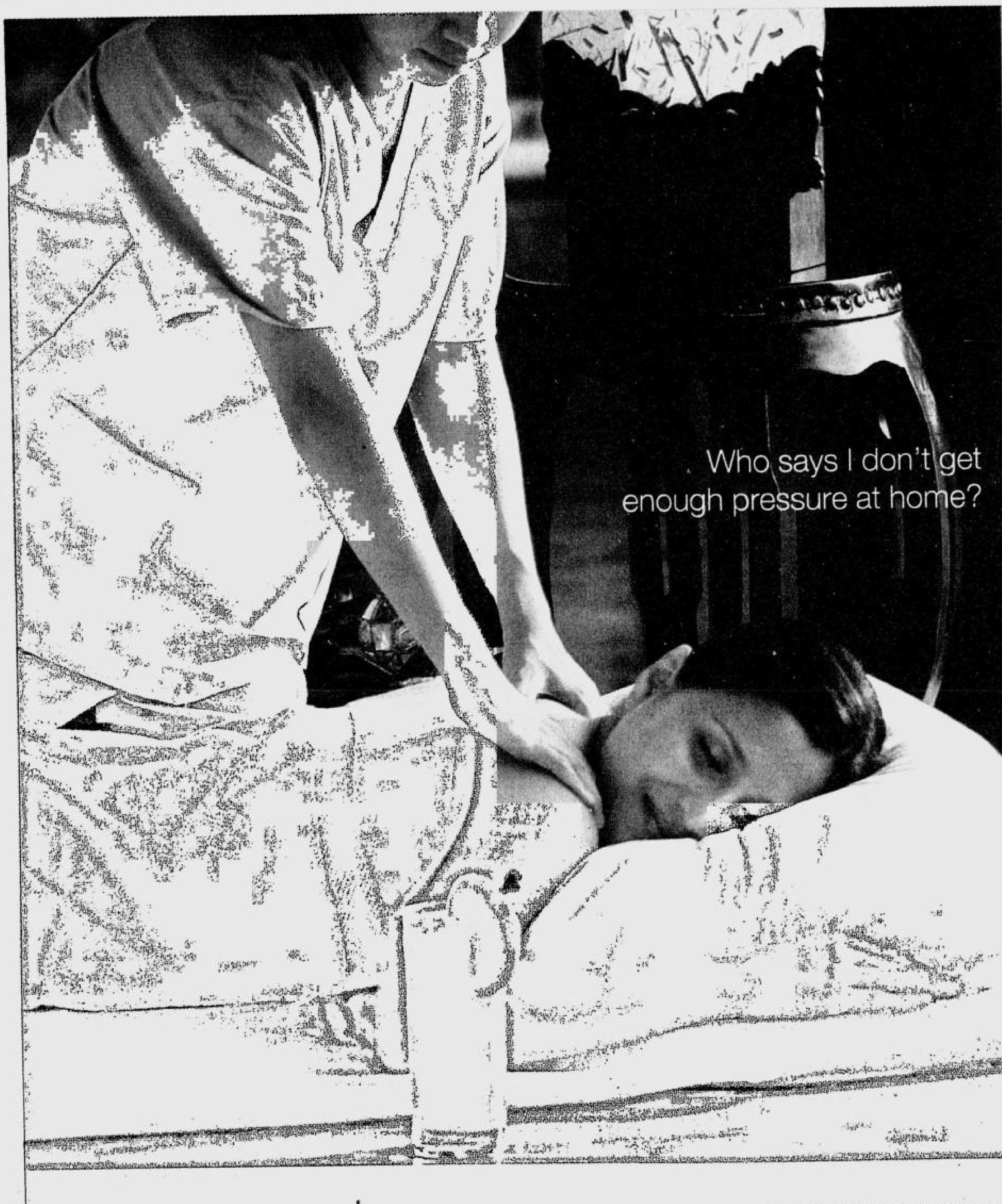
Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said his office has already embarked on several initiatives to enhance its auditing and tax administration functions.

He said the BIR would start conducting an inquiry into the tax compliance of the insurance industry and other sectors whose members were also suspected of avoiding the payment of proper taxes.

The National Program Support for Tax Administration Reform (NPSTAR), which was launched the other day, involves activities that will strengthen the BIR's ability to collect taxes, such as by updating its taxpayers database.

In response to suspicion that insurance firms were not paying proper taxes, Peter Coyiuto of First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. said many insurance firms now generate a huge percentage of their income from investment-linked insurance products rather than pure insurance products.

For this reason, growth in income by an insurance firm does not necessarily mean it recorded an increase in the collection of premiums.



A piece of Inner Peace

A home that's a haven

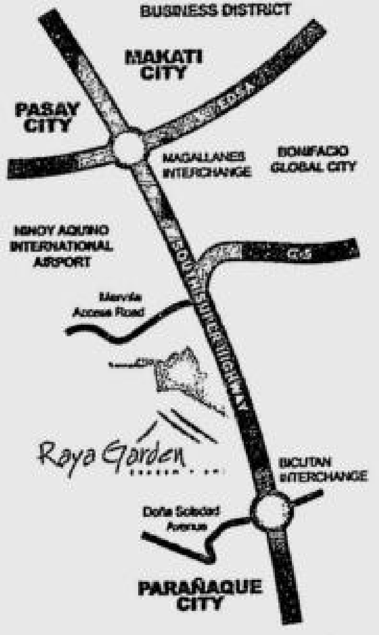
Getting away from the stressful life at work means finding your own private sanctuary. One that allows you to unwind after a long day and leisurely recharge for the next while being surrounded by a relaxing ambience and a loving family. A haven that relaxes your body, clears your mind and refreshes your soul. Some call it paradise. Others call it Raya Garden Condominiums.

The beauty of Bali, the comforts of home

Very few places in the metro can give you the rest and relaxation that Raya Garden Condominiums offers. The relaxing Balinese theme is taken throughout the community and its amenities. The Infinity Edge Plunge Pool, Balinese Garden, Lotus Pond, Bridge Walkway and Meditation Pavilion will leave you with a calming effect. And if you want to stay healthy and active, the fitness gym and basketball court are close by. But if you just like to hang out or entertain friends, a clubhouse-style Grand Pavilion with reception, indoor dining hall, an audio and video room, a cozy bar and a multi-purpose hall is available for your private use. You can enjoy all these amenities without fear or worry as Raya Garden Condominiums enjoys 24-hour security that starts at its guarded main entrance.

Another relaxing feature is its financing plan. You can already call Raya Garden Condominiums "home" by moving-in for a downpayment of as low as 10% plus a 2-year warranty.

As a thriving community, Raya Garden Condominiums brings the convenience of the Makati CBD and Bonifacio Global City in close proximity. And with paradise conveniently resting near major roads like C5, EDSA and SLEX, travel is never stressful.



Strong heritage, stress-free living

Even more relaxing and reassuring is the fact that Raya Garden Condominiums is a project of the country's only triple-A builder/developer DMCI Homes. With DMCI Homes' continued commitment to creating urban-friendly, premium quality homes that cater to all its customers' needs, you can rest easy knowing you've made a smart choice.

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Home should be a place where you can seek peace and refuge. Where you can rest, relax and revitalize so you're ready for whatever life has in store for you. At Raya Garden Condominiums, you can escape the stress and rejuvenate your soul with the beautiful Balinese-inspired design. Our three 5-storey mid-rise buildings and two 15-storey towers provide you with a resort-residential environment and wide landscaped spaces.

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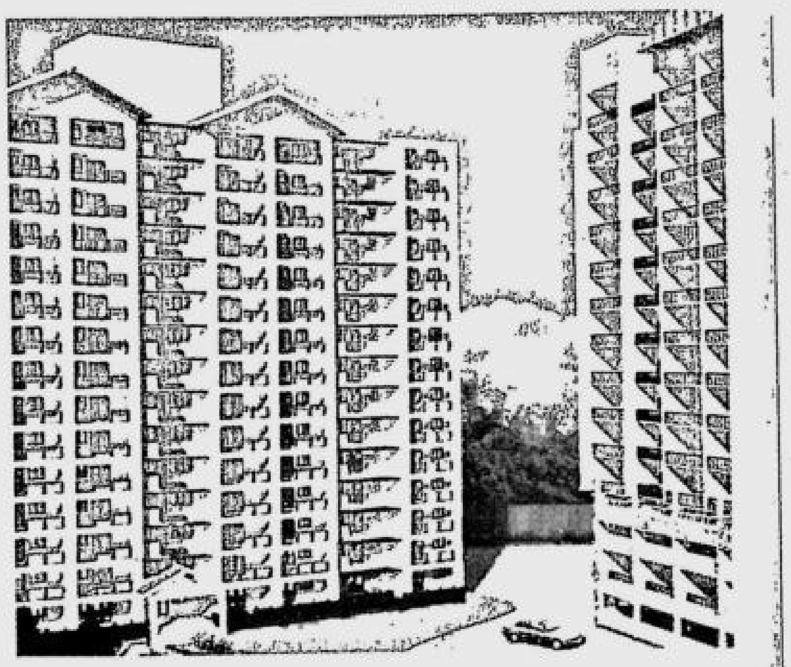

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of Nokia style!

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election campaign

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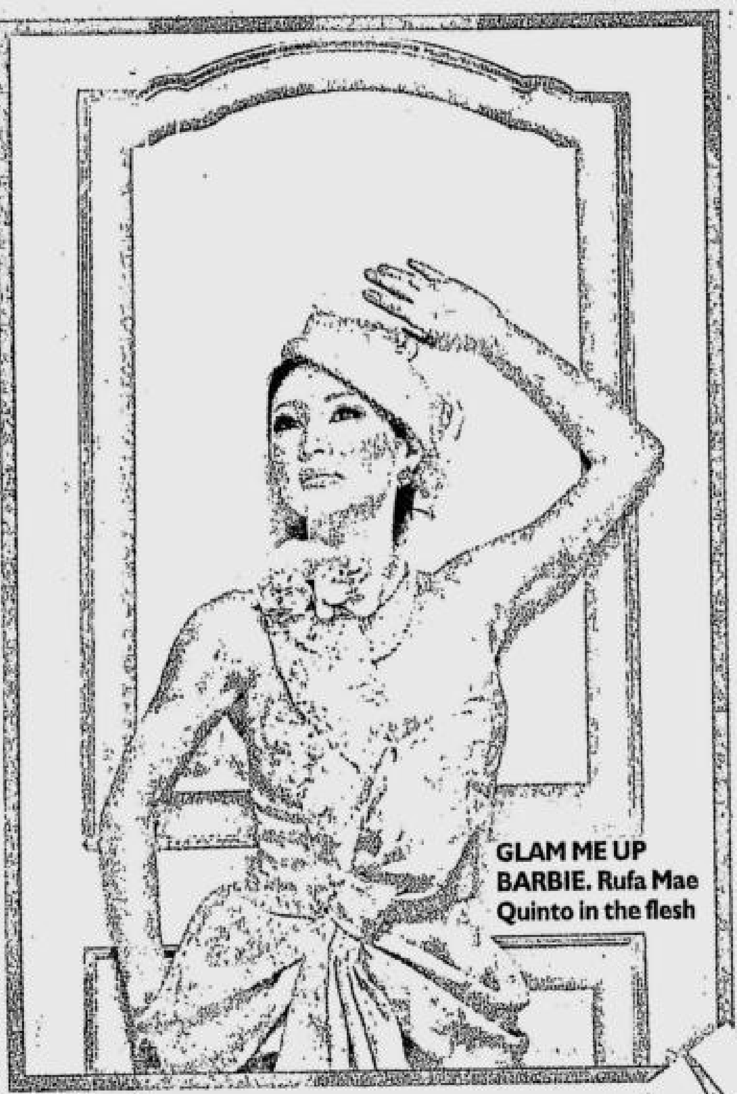
Who's your dolly!?

Rufa Mae took role play to the next level—by becoming the doll herself



GLAM ME UP BARBIE. Rufa Mae Quinto in the flesh

LASTIC FANTASTIC. Rufa Mae aka Peachy, is as real as real can get

By Paolo Lorenzana

IN BARBIE WORLD AS IN Booba land, everything's grandiose; bigger hair, louder colors, and bolder personalities as fundamentals in realms constructed from caricature. And where possibility overrides norms, a girl armed with a Barbie doll can slip the sucker into a skin-tight number, have it cruise around in a hot pink convertible and get it to play intense tonsil hockey with the next Ken doll it lays its painted eyes on. Every girl loves Barbie because she can have everything, do anything-and most importantly—be anything.

Barbie-rian at the Gates

But while most girls eventually leave the fantastical realm of role-play, Rufa Mae-Quinto took it to the next level—from going crazy over Barbie as a 7-year-old girl to striving to become the doll herself. "People would call me Barbie," she says with the signature inflection that can either turn you on or make you giggle. "*Naghi*-heels *ako*. (It's) the way I dress. Sexy *siya* from head-to-toe, everything, *kay* Barbie."

There's no disputing the similarities between Booba and Barbie. With large eyes, spindly arms, and skin so white and smooth it almost seems diaphanous, Rufa Mae could pass for a life-sized doll herself. The makeup artist reveling in every dab of coral under Rufa Mae's forest green-tinted contact lenses knows this, treating her like her own little plaything. Rufa Mae entertains this, of course-sitting erect and immobile with her hands folded neatly on her lap-enjoying the role her face is playing as a canvas for the all-too-befitting partnership of cosmetics powerhouse M.A.C and Mattel's most megalomaniacal doll for the Barbie loves M.A.C make-up line.

What's more, being the country's most celebrated sex comedienne is akin to being every girl's favorite doll. You'd need to be a clear-cut character for people to understand and adore you. To, in Rufa Mae's case, bite the bullet of sexuality, shed her clothes as Booba and prod the peoples' funny bone in the process. "*Syempre* as a person, *hindi yun madali* for me, *'di ba*? 20 years old *ako nun pero* make or break. *Sabi ko bahala na kung magustuhan ng tao o hindi. Basta* while I'm young, *gagawin ko na 'to.*"

BARBIE AND THE ROCKER. Rufa Mae wears Mich Dulce.

RUFA MAE QUINTO

If I was Barbie I would be... basta yung alkat, kahit ano pa.

My first Barbie was... the ordinary one. I only had one Barbie.

My ideal Ken is... syempre si Erik di ba? He can be Ken.

My favorite Barbie outfit consists of... heels and duster. Haha. Gusto ko kasi comfortable, cotton. Okay, white shirt and jeans.

My number one luxury item is... diamonds.

The beauty product I cannot live without... MAC Studio Fix NC 15. And ever since Swiss chocolate MAC eyeshadow, I swear kahit nag-swimming ako. Haha!

My hero is... Super B! Superwan! Spiderman! And all the men I've loved before.

My most embarrassing moment was when... Lagi naman ako nakakahiya eh.

My biggest indulgence is... bags.

My dream Barbie world be... Europe! Kahit saan dun, kung ano yung dream world ni Mich dun yun na din sa akin, basta Europe.

The worst thing somebody said about me was... Lahat naman may masasabi eo kahit wala. I still take it as a compliment. Barbie may nagsabi, ...no ba yan! Rufa Mae wala nang bagong expression, puro nalang 'Go go go!' Eh hindi naman ako naging artista para gumawa ng dictionary ng mga expression or quotes, di ba?

My 3 favorite phrases are: "Todo na to," "Go go go," "Highest level," "Be strong."

My Super Saturday night consists of... sleep since I wake up early the next day for dance rehearsal.

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I will be an instrument to help people in need. Money, passion, dreams, diet, love life, everything.

A Life Just Peachy

You do have to make choices when you're young, and for Rufa Mae, it was all about character choice—Booba, Super-B, and the rest of the less-than-hypodermic women she's played—getting her from bit roles as the token best friend to stars like Regine Velasquez to becoming her most beloved sketch character. "*Maraming nag*-attempt *at nag*-spoof *din sa akin so natuwa ako*, in fairness. Without Booba, I'm nothing," she explains. And since then, she's been unstoppable—a hefty-chested wrecking ball who's broken through every avenue of showbiz despite jabs at her behavior and more recently, at her boyfriend's sexuality. "*Nakikita ko na lahat ng mga sikat o nagtatagal sa industriya, walang paki sa tao. Wala ka dapat* care—*huwag ka lang magkapagsiraulo o salbahe*," Quinto says. "It's better that you shut up than lie—*na huwag ka magsalita, ilabas mo*, or just laugh!"

In Booba land, laughter is and will always be a prerequisite. Not to take life too seriously but to ride your dreams with gusto. And for Rufa Mae, to show that Booba was a glorious means rather than an end, especially with two new comedies coming up and the release of The Four Sides of Rufa Mae, an album of revivals and songs she grew up with. Her 28th birthday next month will coincide with an unveiling of a new music video on SOP. What Rufa Mae has learned from Barbie and from her characters is that she can always do her own thing—especially when it comes to being who she wants to be: a workaholic Barbie; a comical Barbie; or a sexually brazen Barbie who approaches fashion like she does everything else. "*Kasi*, we need to be open-minded. *Kahit gusto mong mag*-winter collection *sa init o mag*-heels *sa buhangin, basta walang pakialam. Yun yung* advice *ko sa taong bayan—panindigan nila yung susuotin nila*," she says triumphantly.

A girl who's as self-aware as Quinto won't think twice about living a larger-than-life existence and turning the color up every chance she gets. Some people start with makeup, but, like Rufa Mae, we can all benefit from a different shade of something every so often. It makes life a little more colorful-maybe a little more grand.

Produced by: Tim Yap
Photography: EVERYWHERE WE SHOOT!!
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Styling: MICH DULCE
Make up: LYN CREDO and ERIKA SAENZ for MAC Cosmetics
Hair: VIANNEY GUESE
Clothes, hats and accessories by Mich Dulce
Stitched pieces by Mich Dulce for DMC.

INTO THE DOLL HOUSE. Everything about her is larger than life.

Who's your Barbie?

GLAM ME UP BARBIE. Rufa Mae Quinto in the flesh

By Paolo Lorenzana

IN BARBIE WORLD AS IN Booba land, everything's grandiose; bigger hair, louder colors, and bolder personalities as fundamentals in realms constructed from caricature. And where possibility overrides norms, a girl armed with a Barbie doll can slip the sucker into a skin-tight number, have it cruise around in a hot pink convertible and get it to play intense tonsil hockey with the next Ken doll it lays its painted eyes on. Every girl loves Barbie because she can have everything, do anything-and most importantly—be anything.

Barbie-rian at the Gates

But while most girls eventually leave the fantastical realm of role-play, Rufa Mae-Quinto took it to the next level—from going crazy over Barbie as a 7-year-old girl to striving to become the doll herself. "People would call me Barbie," she says with the signature inflection that can either turn you on or make you giggle. "*Naghi*-heels *ako.* (It's) the way I dress. Sexy *siya* from head-to-toe, everything, *kay* Barbie."

There's no disputing the similarities between Booba and Barbie. With large eyes, spindly arms, and skin so white and smooth it almost seems diaphanous, Rufa Mae could pass for a life-sized doll herself. The makeup artist reveling in every dab of coral under Rufa Mae's forest green-tinted contact lenses knows this, treating her like her own little plaything. Rufa Mae entertains this, of course-sitting erect and immobile with her hands folded neatly on her lap-enjoying the role her face is playing as a canvas for the all-too-befitting partnership of cosmetics powerhouse M.A.C and Mattel's most megalomaniacal doll for the Barbie loves M.A.C make-up line.

What's more, being the country's most celebrated sex comedienne is akin to being every girl's favorite doll. You'd need to be a clear-cut character for people to understand and adore you. To, in Rufa Mae's case, bite the bullet of sexuality, shed her clothes as Booba and prod the peoples' funny bone in the process. "*Syempre* as a person, *hindi yun madali* for me, *'di ba?* 20 years old *ako nun pero* make or break. *Sabi ko bahala na kung magustuhan ng tao o hindi. Basta* while I'm young, *gagawin ko na 'to.*"

A Life Just Peachy

You do have to make choices when you're young, and for Rufa Mae, it was all about character choice—Booba, Super-B, and the rest of the less-than-hypodermic women she's played—getting her from bit roles as the token best friend to stars like Regine Velasquez to becoming her most beloved sketch character. "*Maraming nag*-attempt *at nag*-spoof *din sa akin so natuwa ako*, in fairness. Without Booba, I'm nothing," she explains. And since then, she's been unstoppable—a hefty-chested wrecking ball who's broken through every avenue of showbiz despite jabs at her behavior and more recently, at her boyfriend's sexuality. "*Nakikita ko na lahat ng mga sikat o nagtatagal sa industriya, walang paki sa tao. Wala ka dapat* care—*huwag ka lang magkapagsiraulo o salbahe,*" Quinto says. "It's better that you shut up than lie—*na huwag ka magsalita, ilabas mo*, or just laugh!"

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RUFA MAE QUINTO

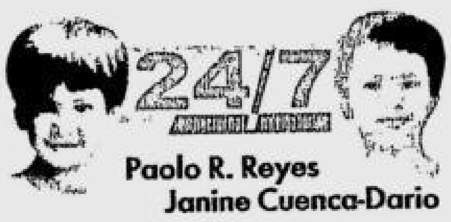
[illegible]

BARBIE AND THE ROCKER. Rufa Mae wears Mich Dulce.

INTO THE DOLL HOUSE. Everything about her is larger than life.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Lost World



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

IF YOUR SUMMER WAS filled with decadent weekends of debauchery in Boracay, here's one way to repent for the season's self-indulgences. Save the world by embarking on WWF-Philippines' World Heritage Expedition through the Sulu Sea.

A unique fundraising effort to keep the Tubbataha Reef alive, the five-day expedition aboard The Minerva (a state-of-the-art WWF research vessel) will take adventurers across unexploited territories from Palawan to Iloilo, including three Unesco World Heritage Sites. Carefully designed in collaboration with ecotourism outfitter Anton Carag, this pioneering tour offers an awe-inspiring package that will open up the Cagayancillo micro-archipelago and Tubbataha Reef to non-divers for the first time in history.

In the waters off Tubbataha Reef, witness exotic marine life bursting beneath the waves. In Puerto Princesa, a hidden cavern burrowing through a mountain reveals the longest underground river in the world. In the 221-year-old Miag-ao Fortress Church in Iloilo, uncover the religious structure's secret legends and storied history, which are delicately carved on its Baroque-Romanesque façade.

Idyllic white sand beaches can wait another day, but the preservation of the Sulu Sea's natural wonders cannot. The final expedition of 2007 will take place from June 8 to 13. To reserve a slot on this once-in-a-lifetime journey, call 920-7923 or visit www.wwf.org.ph.

More Super! 24/7 events:

May 19, Saturday

Absolut Apeach Bar Tour at M Café; Underground Convergence at Warehouse 135; Kids Art, Arts and Crafts Workshop, Swimming for Beginners at Moms and Kids fair at SM Megatrade Halls; Housexy: DJ Rich Murray at Embassy Club; Saxophoro & street peformers at Serendra; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Karen Manion & Blu Room at Martinis Bar; DJs Jon Herrera & Tolo Bote at Temple; Autobahn: Car Club Events at Bonifacio High Street

May 20, Sunday

World Press Photo 2007 exhibit at SM North Edsa; Saxophoro at Greenbelt 2 & 3;

E-aji Dance Craze, Dress-up your pancake contest, Alaska Power Camp, Magnolia's my moms best *pambaon* recipe at Moms and Kids fair at SM Megatrade Hall; sMPO Quartet at Serendra; Nuevo Ritmo at Café Havana Greenbelt

EMERGING
WONDERS

May 21, Monday

Happy Mondays hosted by Borgy Manotoc at Embassy Cuisine; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gwellos Makati; Chemical Underground at Absinth

May 22, Tuesday

Electronica w/ Drip & guest DJs at Fiamma; Sandwich at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Jazz Night at Mezze;

May 23, Wednesday

Absolut Apeach Bar Tour at Embassy Cuisine; House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Fez; Rock Series 2 w/ Callalily at Metrobar, QC; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Lush: Smooth Rn'B at Fiamma; DJ Marie Garcia at Rock Candy; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt

May 24, Thursday

Sandwich at Rockwell Center; MPO Quartet at Greenbelt 2 & 3; SPIT at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; World's Fastest Open Bar at Bed

May 25, Friday

Electro Disko w/ DJs Adrian Cuenca & Ms BadKiss at M Café; Chill by the Bay w/ live bands & performers at SM Mall of Asia; PI Jazz at Greenbelt 2 & 3; Sandwich at TriNoMa Mall; House Sessions at Fiamma; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Jive Fridays at Temple; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 GIGS to 2851 (Globe) and 2951 (Smart). Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com, mag24_7@yahoo.com, and NocturnalNavigator@gmail.com.

BATH TIME is FUN TIME

If you are new to the baby-bathing scene, EQ Dry makes it easy for mommies to face this challenge and make it a happy routine for both baby and mommy.

First, line your baby wash, bath sponge, cloth towel, rubber toys beside your bath tub for easy access. Next, check if the water temperature is just right before letting baby in to the tub. For babies up to six months old, fill the bath tub with only up to five inches of water with his shoulders covered with warm water. For older babies, fill the bath no more than waist-high as a safety precaution. Finally, place your bath mat and slippers near the tub so babies don't slip when they get out of the water!

After undressing your baby, carefully place baby in the bath tub using one hand to support his neck and head. Use only a little amount of soap and wash him with the sponge from top to bottom and front to back. Use a wet, soapy cloth to clean his scalp and moistened cotton wool for his eyes and face. After soaping, rinse your baby thoroughly and wrap him in a towel or bath robe and pat him dry.

Bath time for babies is all about fun and play. Make this a part of baby's routine so that when he grows up, he'll appreciate the comforts of healthy hygiene. And with EQ Dry diaper, babies will surely look forward to bath time with their EQ Dry Bath Time Buddies!

Happy si baby, happy si mommy!

EQ Dry
BATH TIME Buddies
EQ Dry

Make bathing fun for your baby, get these bath time buddies for FREE with every purchase of EQ Dry!

FREE DELIVERY

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. You can join by simply collecting wrappers with intact points of ***EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover***. Points per packaging are as follows:

EQ DRY BABY DIAPER	LABEL POINTS
Mini Pack (S4, M4, L4, XL4)	1/4 pt
Travel Pack (NB22, S20, M18, L16, XL14)	1 pt
Econo Pack (S40, M36, L32, XL28)	2 pts
Jumbo Pack (S60, M54, L48, XL42)	3 pts
Mega Pack (M84, L72)	4 pts

2. You must collect the corresponding points to be able to get one (1) collectible item:

ITEM		POINTS
Bathroom Mat	Pig / Frog / Duck / Tiger	15 pts
Bath Robe	Pig / Frog / Duck / Tiger	12 pts
Bathroom Slippers	Pig / Frog / Duck / Tiger	8 pts
Bath Sponge	Pig / Frog / Duck / Tiger	6 pts

* Only entire wrappers with intact points of ***EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover*** will be accepted.
* Entries containing cut-out points will NOT be honored.
* Entries containing soiled wrappers (wrappers contaminated with feces or mud, discolored or faded wrappers) or unused wrappers will NOT be honored.

3. Submit the required ***EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover*** wrappers together with the complete information written on a piece of paper: sender's name, complete address, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, baby's name and age, signature of parent/guardian plus the desired premium item/s enclosed in an envelope. *Please include landmarks for hard to find locations.*

4. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

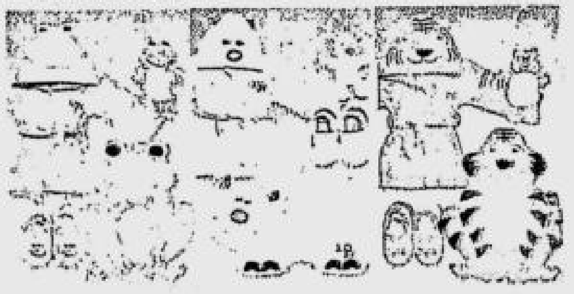
"EQ DRY Bath Time Buddies"
JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc.
31st Floor Raffles Corporate Center,
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City 1605

Or

"EQ DRY Bath Time Buddies"
P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

5. The chosen premium item/s will be delivered FREE of charge by JRS Express to the address submitted by the sender. In the event that the sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the sender.

OTHER AVAILABLE DESIGNS:



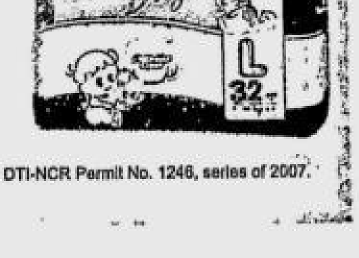
6. Entries thru mail must be received on or before July 31, 2007 to qualify. Hand delivered entries must be received on or before July 15, 2007 to qualify.

7. Premium items will be delivered until September 30, 2007.

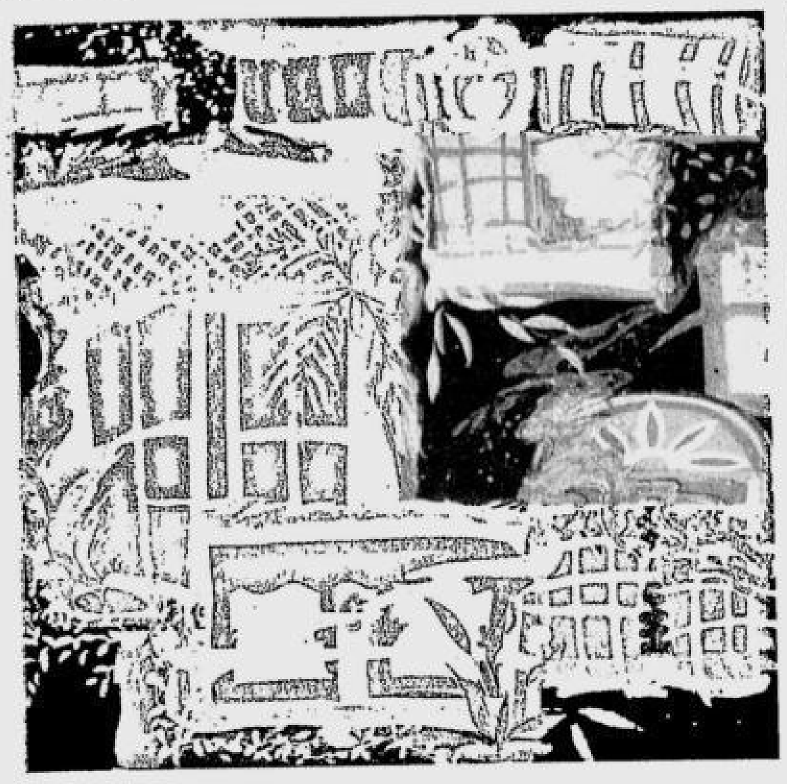
8. You may join the promo as many times as you want.

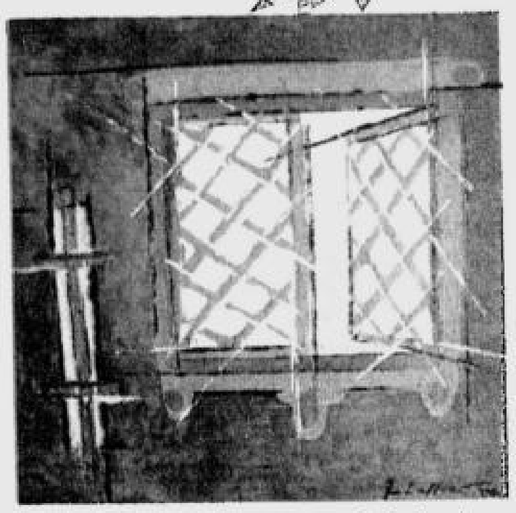
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

PROMO PERIOD:
April 16 to July 15, 2007

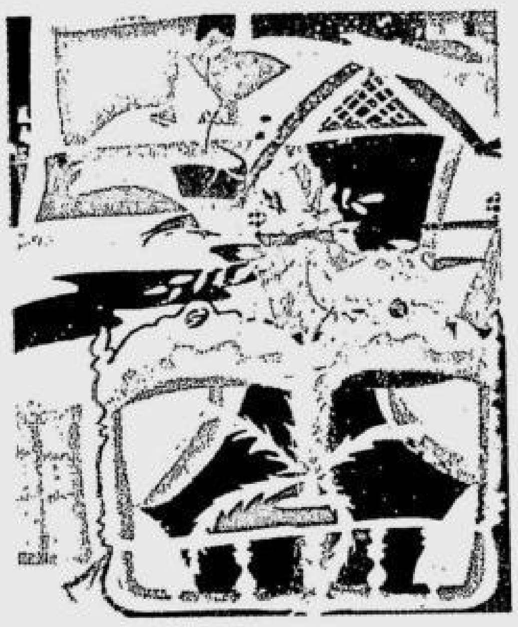


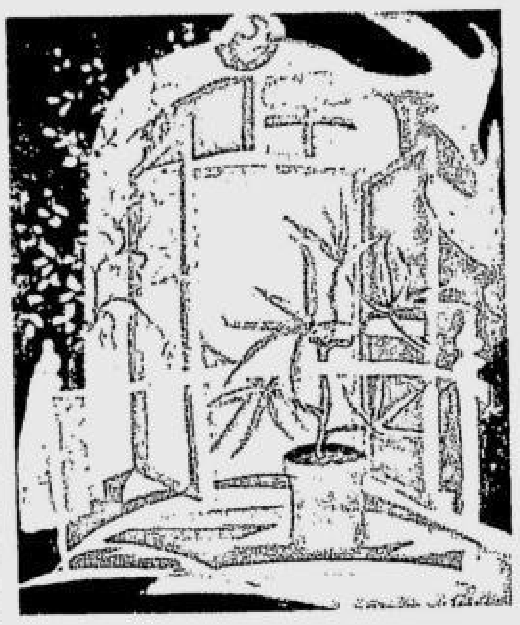
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1246, series of 2007.





OPEN this window to the French Spring in Manila. Artworks by Phyllis Zaballero





SuperSelections

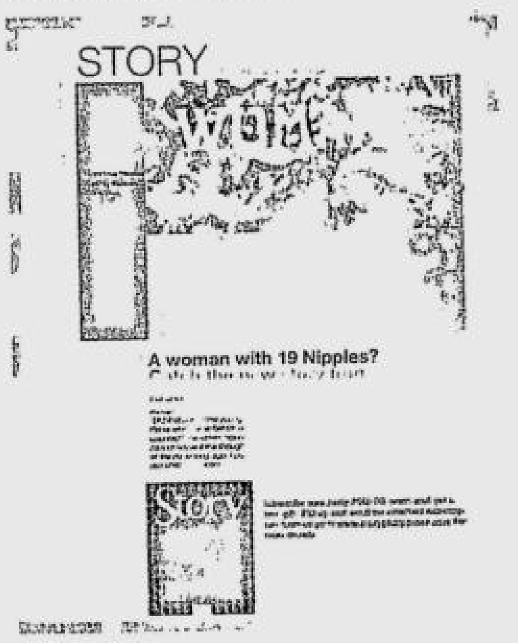
Summer windows, short reads

Chase the heat away with colorful artwork, short stories, America Ferrera and the horrors of the rage virus

By Pam Pastor

View ...

... The Windows Of Summer by Phyllis Zaballero exhibit which will run at the Alliance Française Total Gallery from May 23 to June 29. Let yourself be entranced by her use of colors and lines—the artwork might even help you forget about the heat.

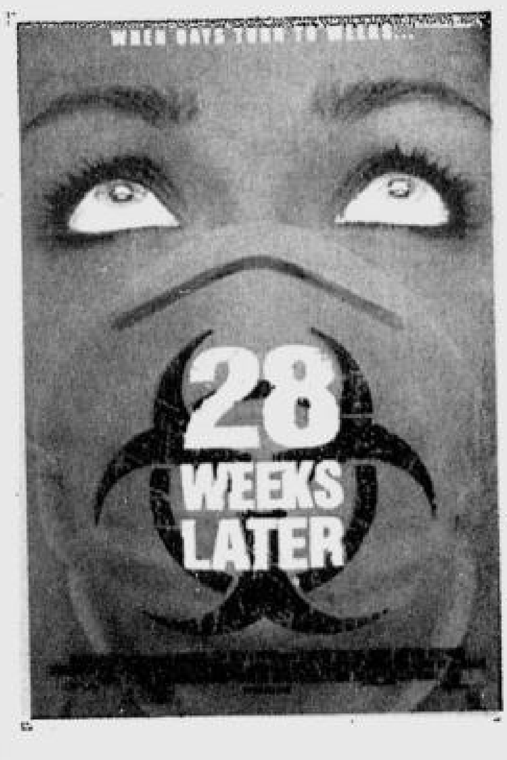

STORY
A woman with 19 Nipples?

Read ...

the latest issue of Story Philippines, the quarterly magazine that's packed with great short reads from Filipino writers in English. Get a year's subscription for P540 and receive a free gift. Story Philippines Magazine is available in all major bookstores (National, Powerbooks, Fully Booked, A Different Bookstore, etc.) and magazine stands nationwide.

Watch ...

... Ugly Betty on Studio 23. We're hooked, hooked, hooked. There's nothing ugly about Betty. Not even the fact that America Ferrera's smile was recently insured for $10 million.


WHEN DAYS TURN TO WEEKS...
28
WEEKS
LATER

Catch ...

... 28 Weeks Later. Make sure you don't spill your popcorn while you're watching. It's pretty awesome for a sequel. And we're keep our fingers crossed for a third serving.

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"I AM not beautiful; I am divine."

Style, you're Super!

Ashleiy and Santiago may rock two different ends of the fashion spectrum but they're both Super! and they both win new Nokia 6300 phones

ASHLEIY and elements of art

By Pam Pastor

FOR WEEKS, SUPER! AND Nokia asked you to show us your style by sending photos our way.

We weren't disappointed. You chronicled your style like pros and we had such a blast checking out your creativity and love for fashion. The truth is, we wish we can give away Nokia 6300 phones to all of you who joined.

Picking the winners was almost as hard as deciding who to vote for last Monday but somehow, we managed.

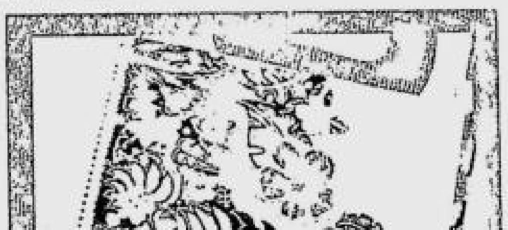
Eighteen-year-old Maria Ashleiy Cyril Kasala of Marikina won us over with her flair for art and love for color. Her personality just pops. She wrote, "I'm a happy-go-lucky person. I like anything that has to do with visual arts like drawing, painting, and photography. I am fascinated by every color that I see around me. My personal style is inspired by the chromatic and fun world of the arts. My fashion idol is Kate Torralba. Artsy and unique finds interest me but I still make sure that I keep it clean, simple, and modern just like the new Nokia 6300. Always remember that style isn't about the fashionable clothes and accessories you wear, it's about having a lot of confidence what ever you're wearing."

On the darker, more subdued end of the fashion spectrum, we loved 17-year-old Santiago Tiongco III's vintage look. His photos and captions made our day.

Congratulations, Ashleiy and Santiago. You will soon be rockin' your new Nokia 6300. Super will contact you on how to claim your prize.

DEPINISYON ng moda

DALISAY NA BAKLA: Nagpuputi para sa dumi


THIS sketch, which Ashleiy called Tropical, got a lot of attention from people in her Multiply network

PUNK princess

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SCENES from a peaceful but rocking night as captured by Mon Guinto's camera

No rest for Rock Ed

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Zoe Ezequiel, Mon Guinto
and Bien Po of Lomomanila

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN you have something to say? You make sure you are heard.

That's exactly what Rock Ed did last week during the Malinis Please concert.

Killer combination

And because it has been proven time and again that the adults in this country have a hard time listening to the young ones, Rock Ed decided to put together a killer combination that is impossible to ignore: an eight-hour showcase of music, images and videos that demanded for clean and honest elections.

The sky didn't cooperate—it rained—but the 20,000 people who attended the event in Amoranto Stadium didn't care. "Everyone behaved," Rock Ed's Gang Badoy said. "We had no crash guards, no net in front of the stage and not a lot of security but it was so peaceful. It was great. They were well-behaved but the concert was still rocking! The moshers rocked *pero walang gulo*. I think it's also because we asked people to come in white and because they signed agreements that they will rock in peace when they downloaded the entry forms."

Gang also had nothing but good things to say about the musicians who have shown Rock Ed's projects tremendous support. "The musicians in the Philippine band scene now understand that their voices carry. They know that they have the power and responsibility to influence the young to be more nation-involved. From the start, Rock Ed has always challenged the rock stars, I always ask them, "Do you deserve that microphone? Do you deserve your audience? What does your music stand for?" And the musicians have delivered more than I imagined. They have been generous with their talent. Many of them even study the advocacies before performing. They come with their own opinions and stands on issues involving the young. I have a feeling the term "rock star's ego" will mean an entirely different thing in the near future. Eventually, it will indicate compassion, genius, kindness instead of self-serving, ego-involved, and conceited."

First, a huge concert demanding for clean elections. Now, a concert series reminding politicians to keep their promises. Rock Ed doesn't rest—and we shouldn't either

Super! asked friends from Lomomanila to capture the evening with their beloved toy cameras. Lomomanila also played a role in the Malinis Please event, by presenting a slideshow of gripping and goosebump-inducing images taken by its memebers.

Not over

Just because the elections are over doesn't mean Rock Ed's work is done. Next on their agenda is reminding politicians to turn all their sugary promises into sweeter reality. "Rock Ed will support the local officials for as long as they keep their promises," Gang said.

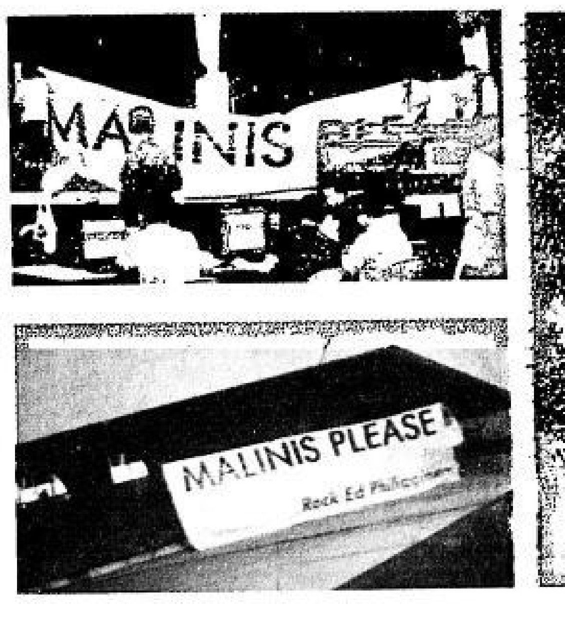
And so they are launching the Keep Your Promises concert series, which is presented by Rock Ed Radio. The fun starts at Big Sky Mind today, 9 p.m. Bands playing include Paramita, Peryodiko, Quadro, Cosmic Love and more. Entrance is free but people are requested to bring books, used clothes or funds for vaccines. Other concerts will be in Eastwood on June 8 and Saguijo on June 28. On June 30, Rock Ed will stage its anniversary concert called One Rock Ed Nation. A number of musical acts including Radioactive Sago, Sound, Updharma Down, Giniling Festival, Swiss and Musical and other Terno Recording Artists will be joining the series. "It's also part of the Keep Your Promises series," Gang said. "I hope the energy from all these gigs translates to real involvement in the future. This is just where we start."

Music is just the start

She added, "The Rock Ed population realizes that concerts and gigs are not enough to push real change. But we know the power of music. Music gathers people, people gather dreams, dreams become decisions and decisions can become projects. Projects can translate to better lives sometimes. So we can't stop now. We can't stop our participation and our call for participation of the youth after elections. It's the best time to demand for integrity from politicians. After the polls is when integrity and participation count the most."

Visit www.rockedphilippines.org and www.rockedradio.com. Listen to Rock Ed Radio (hosted by Gang Badoy and Lourd de Veyra) on NU107, Sundays at 8 p.m.

Zoe Ezequiel focused her
made the Malinis Please



How to hold a seven-p

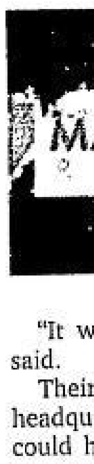
WHILE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE spent their energy stressing over the liquor ban last Monday, Rock Ed head Gang Badoy had another idea.

"We decided to guard the ballot differently," Gang said in her blog (sumandali.blogspot.com).

Because staging a concert demanding clean elections isn't enough (what is enough for Rock Ed, really?), Gang decided to hold a seven-person rally. "*Ganito mag*-rally *maski wala namang* rally *pero merong dapat nira*-rally," she said.

She gathered six of her friends ("Friends who are passionate about honest elections," she stressed)—Jay, Mike, Mark, Gerhard, Sheila and Gabby—and together they brought the Malinis Please tarp to different places in the city, documenting the whole trip by taking photos and videos.

Their stops? The Freedom Shrine by White Plains, Manila Cathedral, the Comelec office, Intramuros monuments, a police station, Roxas Boulevard, the CCP.



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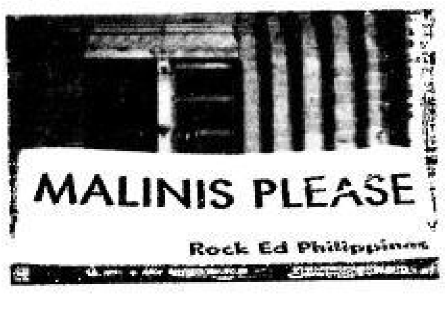

Wyeth*

Is your child Gifted?

There's a gift in every child. That's why it is crucial for you to discover the gift at an early age, and nurture it.

During the pre-school years, a child's abilities begin to surface. At this point, it becomes easier for a parent to observe and ensure his development, as well as spot his unique gift. To tell if your child is gifted, you must be able to observe his behavior, and compare these to those of other children his age.

Experts say there is a difference between the two groups of children: the intelligent and the gifted. Here is a list of characteristics that may help you find the category in which your child belongs.[1]

The Intelligent Child	The Gifted Child
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Works hard	Playful, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Is in the top group	Is a level higher
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
Needs 6-8 repetitions for mastery	Needs 1-2 repetitions
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Is receptive	Is intense

Parents should not expect a gifted child to be outstanding in all these characteristics. However, if your child exhibits a majority of the characteristics, help nurture his gift by understanding his needs and providing a good learning environment, proper care and the right nutrition.

Proper Care and Nutrition
Providing proper care means responding to a potentially gifted child's needs accordingly. You can provide the proper tools and means for creative expression. You can also help stimulate his creativity by introducing interesting activities and taking him to new places. When you have every reason to believe that your child is talented, you may opt to have him evaluated by a professional psychologist to determine if he is indeed gifted. This way, you're better able to provide for his distinct needs.[2]

To help nurture his potential and ensure his optimal development, also give him the proper nourishment early on. This will help support his increased physical and mental needs. A milk formula recommended for children 3 years and up is Promil Pre-School. It has ProGifted Formula 4, a proper blend of nutrients suitable for young children who are at an ideal stage for developing the gift. Promil Pre-School helps in the mental and psychomotor development, improving your child's motor skills, vision and visual memory.[3,4,5]

Together, let us nurture the gift
The proper nutrition your child gets from Promil Pre-School, combined with your guidance and proper care, will not only help ensure his optimal development, but also help nurture the gift.

So whether his interests include playing with Daddy's old guitar or scribbling on your walls, see it as a gift waiting to blossom. Along with the environment you provide, Promil Pre-School can help you nourish the gift in your child.

Sources:
1. Sanbos J. *Challenge Magazine*. 1989
2. *Meeting the Needs of Gifted Children* My Cinnamon Toast Parenting http://www.mycinnamontoast.com/gifted.html.
3. Sansteed HH, Lolgren PA. Symposium: Dietary zinc and iron – recent perspectives regarding growth and cognitive development. *Journal of Nutrition 2000*. 130 3455-3465.
4. Walter T, De Andraca I, Chadud P, et al. Iron deficiency anemia: Adverse effects on infant psychomotor development. *Pediatrics 1989*; 84 7-17.
5. WebHealthCentre.com-Diet & Nutrition. *Food at work: Energy Givers*.

Promil Pre-School

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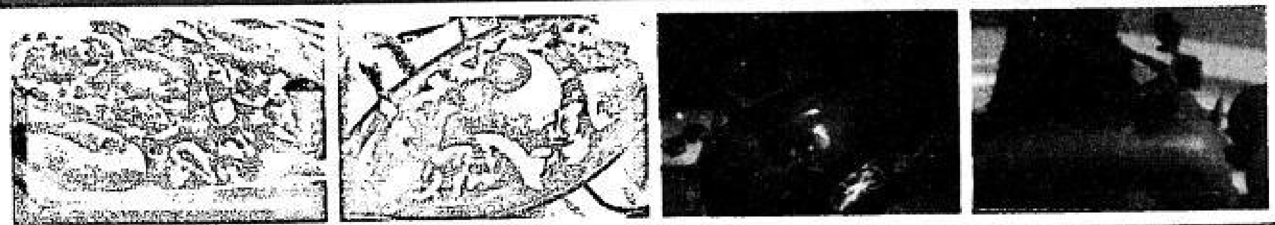

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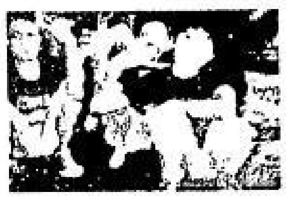

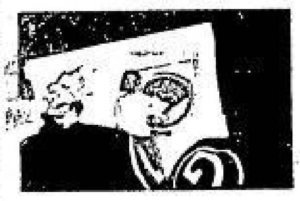

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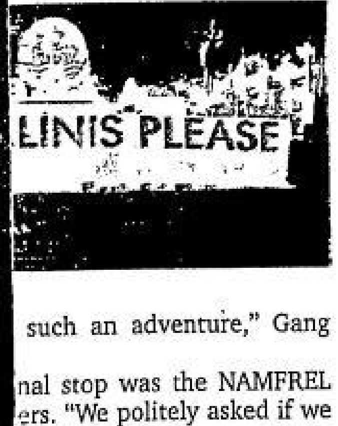

such an adventure," Gang

nal stop was the NAMFREL ers. "We politely asked if we g (the tarp) there until the s over. *Pumayag naman.* We ht at an early age that the e will get you what you ask can also be sarcastic and nd insistent but in the end, e most polite route. So our on."

is inviting you to continue the lean elections on the net, by word about the photos and the your own blogs. ***Pam Pastor***

LINIS PLEASE
Rock Ed Philip

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C2 Live Life Series:

Summer Escapades

Refreshing sunny day getaways

While the hot sun was beating down on summer revelers, C2 Green Tea made the season cooler with its Live Life Series: Summer Escapades at the country's most beautiful beaches. With a sizzling kick-off party held in Eastwood City, the C2 Live Life Series: Summer Escapades was a refreshing presence in Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, Subic, La Union, Davao, and Puerto Galera, as it brought with it healthy drinks, summer gear, and cool beach music.

Apart from enjoying the delicious flavors of C2 Green Tea, drinkers were given the chance to win trips to the best local beaches. For the grand prize, a lucky winner will enjoy another summer escapade in Palau, Micronesia for two.

The beaches were decked in cool green, with the C2 Green Tea booth and banners dotting the shores. Party people also walked around adorned with C2 Green Tea's premium summer accessories. During the day, beach bums who were spotted decked out in these items were given raffle tickets. At night, bar patrons gamely switched their drinks for C2 Green Tea's latest variants and got to enjoy special gifts from the C2 Green Tea models.

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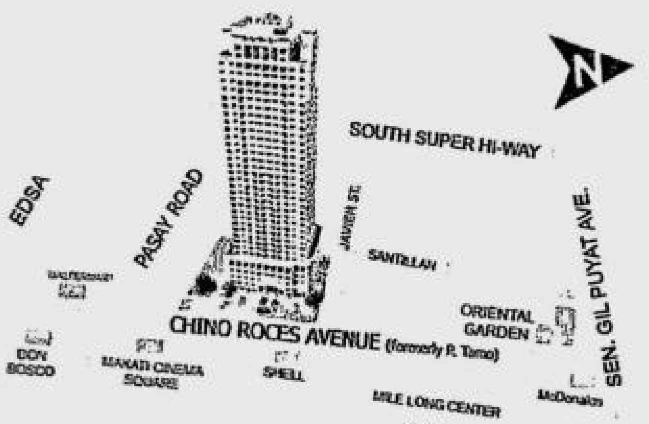
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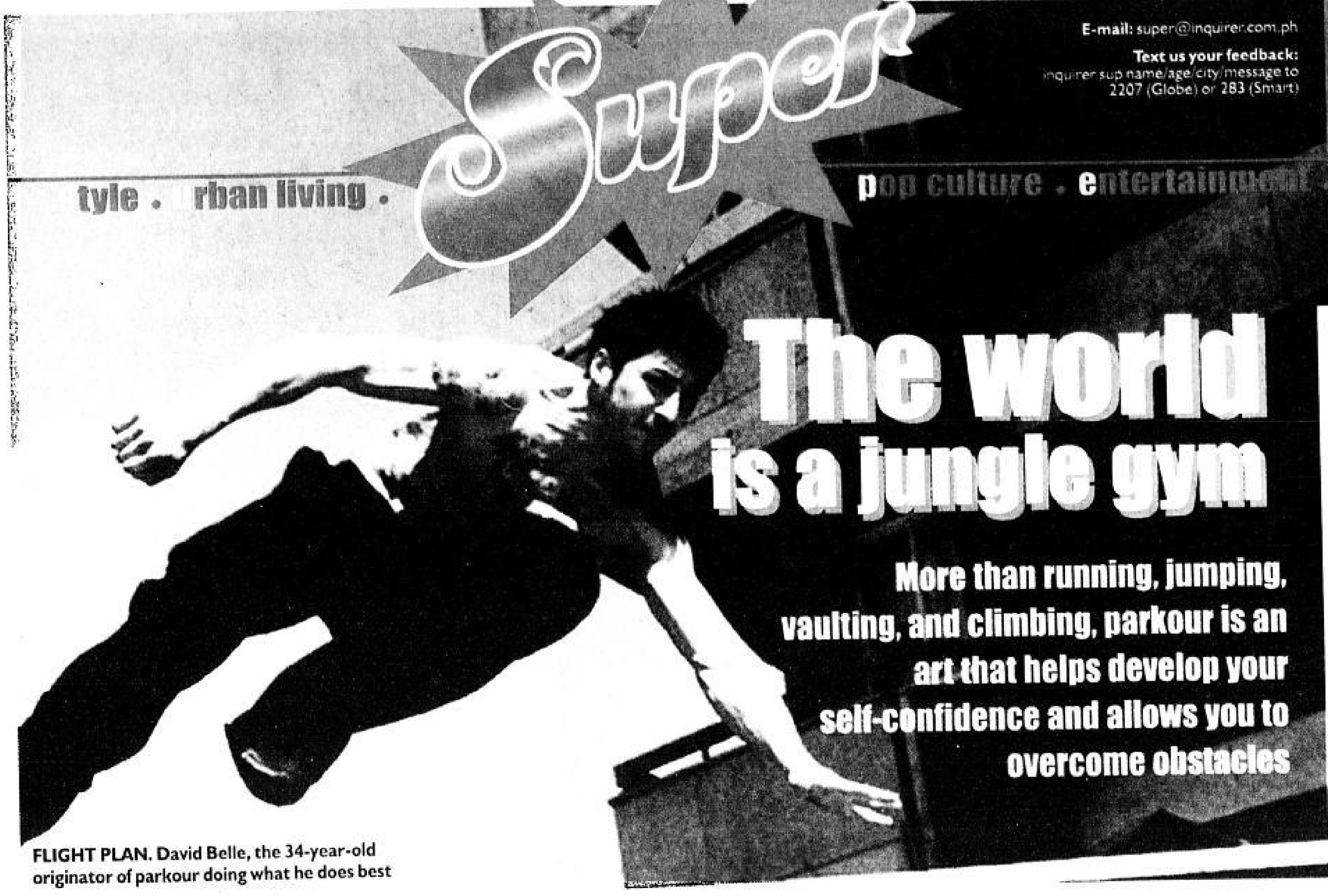

The world is a jungle gym

More than running, jumping, vaulting, and climbing, parkour is an art that helps develop your self-confidence and allows you to overcome obstacles

FLIGHT PLAN. David Belle, the 34-year-old originator of parkour doing what he does best

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Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

SOMETIME IN THE 80s, A French teen by the name of David Belle daydreamed about escaping from difficult scenarios by using his own strength. Largely influenced by his father, Raymond, an army soldier and certified jock, he gradually built his skills in gymnastics, martial arts, and other action-oriented activities. At the ripe old age of 15, David used those experiences—as well as stories of his dad's obstacle course training in Vietnam— to develop a way useful sport, parkour.

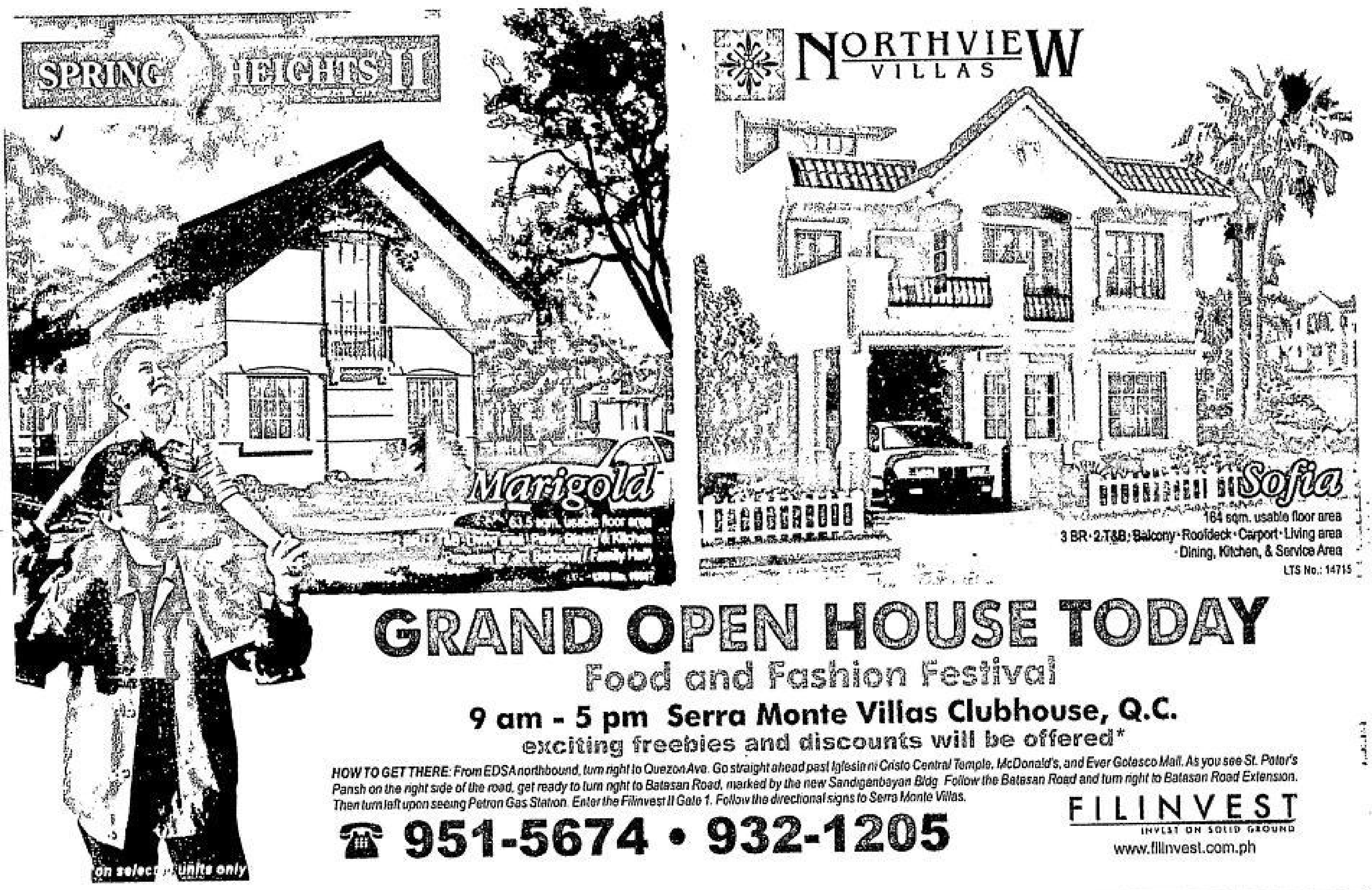
Shorthand for the French phrase parcours du combattant, which roughly means military obstacle course, parkour is a young sport—a utility art, if you will—that involves navigating from point A to point B with superhero-like efficiency and agility. In parkour lingo, the spry and bouncy peeps who practice it are known as traceurs; they are often daredevil dudes in their late teens and twenties. But more than doing insane jumps between buildings or fluidly leapfrogging over park benches, parkour is also a philosophy that helps develop self-confidence to face everyday obstacles—physical, mental, whatever.

Parkour in pop culture

Through parkour, traceurs break free from the restrictions thrown down by urban planning. A normal person may see boxy buildings, chain-link fences, and concrete stairwells; a traceur will only see a giant jungle gym, a world of possibilities and challenges. After all, parkour is something all of us did as kids—swinging from trees and scaling walls like ninjas—long before we were told not to.

It was "Yamakasi," a 2001 Luc Besson film about modern samurais who engage in amazing burglaries, that stoked the buzz and slowly shifted parkour into the realm of popular consciousness. Following that, originator David Belle appeared in an ad for British TV channel BBC1. Then in 2003, the documentary "Jump London" dropped, starring Johann Vigroux, Jérôme Ben Aoues, and Sébastien Foucan. The three collaborators used London landmarks as launch pads for their stunts, inspir-

THE WORLD/ E4



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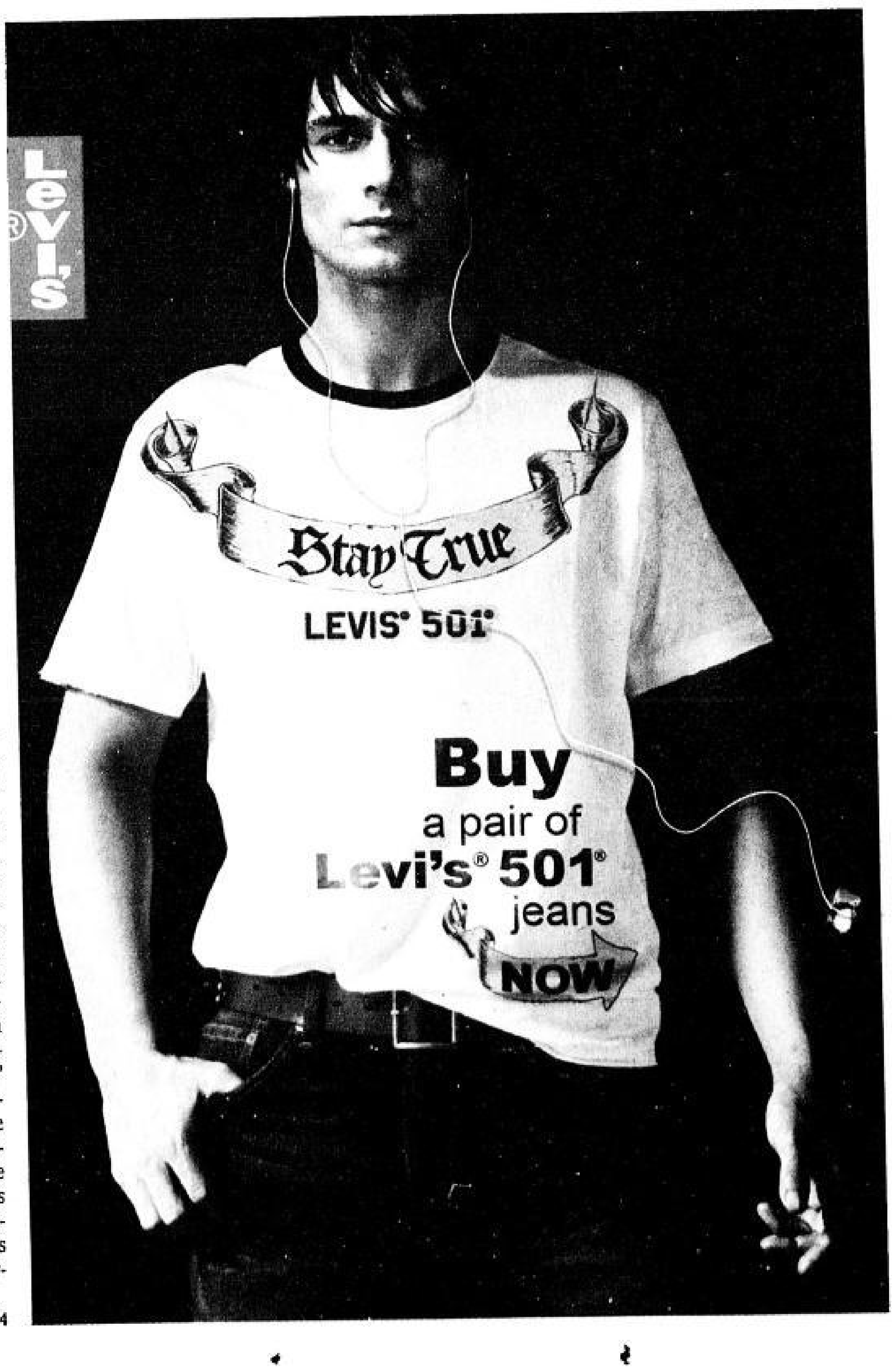

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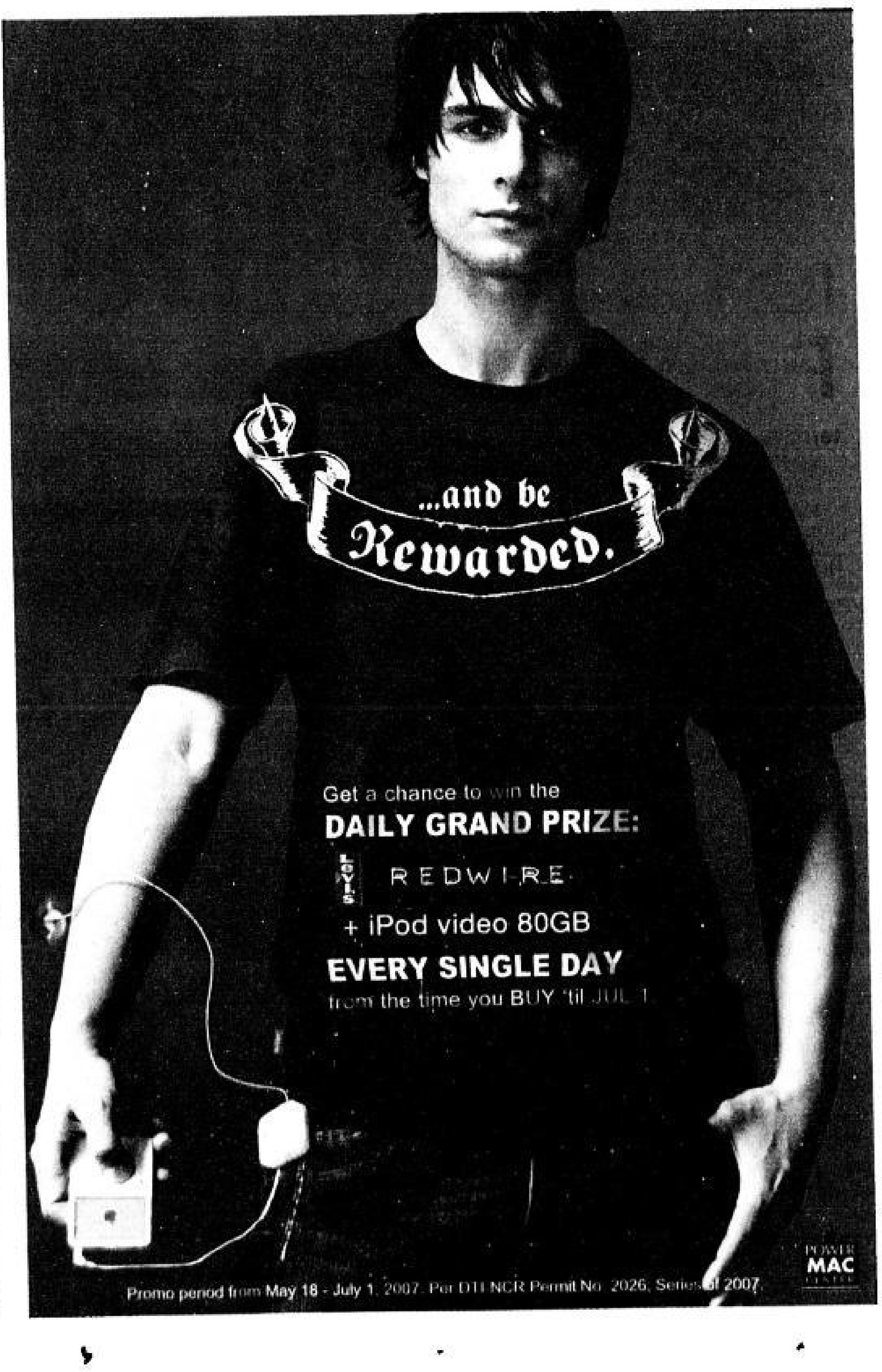

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PHOTOS BY TIM YAP USING KODAK V705

ILOILO EXPRESS. Nielex Tupas with his hot girlfriend

GO WITH THE FLOW. Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing of Maki with Flow bar owner Tata Loring

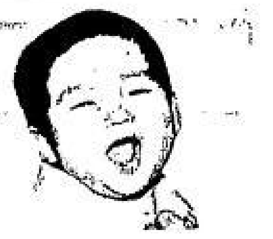
THE ONE AND ONLY. Champ of Hale in Iloilo City

MAKI'S MAN. Most eligible bachelor Tito Lopez

SOUTHERN SEDUCTION. Scarlet French, May Pedro and Vincent Ascalon dining at Maki

> We do have a role to play in society - nothing is considered small, as everyone can make a difference

License to chill



Tim Yap

SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE the elections, over dinner to welcome friends from Paris to Prague, the conversation turned from pleasantries to panic, when everyone realized there was only one hour to go before the two words that was considered to be the most crucial part of the night would hit.

"Liquor ban." I never knew these two words can strike that much fear in the eyes (and mouths) of many. I have survived quite a number of "liquor bans," and I've lived to tell the story. To be honest, it has never really affected me since I am happy to drink my dose of aspertane (a.k.a. any diet drink—just to correct any druggie misconceptions) and that small dosage of caffeine can last me until the homily of Sunday's premier Mass.

As each minute went by, every sip counted. People went on a bottle-buying binge just to make sure they had enough stock of alcohol to last them the night. It was panic buying like there was no tomorrow! Amidst all the action, I looked at Super!'s **Tals Diaz**, and we just gave each other the "look." "There are more pressing issues, ladies and gents," I announced over the table. "It's the elections on Monday."

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There was a second of silence, and then the general dinner conversation buzz continued. As if nothing was happening, because the people were scared of... the liquor ban.

"There's no liquor ban in Greenbelt!" someone announced proudly. "Maybe we should go there?" "Are foreigners included?" "Some of our friends flew to Boracay for the holiday weekend." Uh, it wasn't holiday weekend, folks—it's election weekend. And I proceeded to ask the table of 14 on who is registered to vote. Two hands were raised proudly, a glass of vodka clasped in their other hand.

Voting trip

I sat beside **Elaine Matawaran**, who now resides in Prague, with her partner **Thomas Elsperman**, who manages the European operations for a nuclear energy firm based in the Czech Republic. Before flying back to Manila, Elaine made sure she was able to vote already. She is a registered voter in the Czech Republic, which has a total of 56 Filipinos recorded. Even in my recent trips to Palau where I made sure to sit down and talk to the Filipino communities I would meet, their persistent question was, "Who are you voting for?"

In my non-intoxicated but happy state, it made me wonder about the so-called apathy of this generation—or just the people around my table (lest I be accused once again of "guiltless" guile). All of a sudden, people scrambled to get liquor, just because there was a ban. All of a sudden, people chose to vote for lawbreakers to be lawmakers.

During election time, it is the easiest thing to put the dirty spotlight on the candidates, asking them to question their motives, asking us to question their motives. While I do admit that these things are part and parcel of the election process, we should also look at ourselves and see how our precious vote can make a difference. We do have a role to play in society—nothing is considered small, as everyone can make a difference. As Super!'s **Pepe Diokno** wrote in his article urging our generation to register, "If you don't register, you don't vote. If you don't vote—then you have no right to complain." 'Nuff said.

Cafe Med and Maki

I've been on a domestic jetset trail recently—and some memories are unforgettable. It stays longer than the indelible ink from your voting precinct.

Still fresh from my camera phone memory are photos from Iloilo where I stopped by the Maki, the Japanese food hipspot in that hot side of town. **Tito Lopez** welcomed us into his new venture while business partner **Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing** showed us the kitchens—the cleanest and most orderly I've seen. Yup, they run a tight ship. And why not, when Maki takes pride in serving the best sushi in the center of Iloilo town.

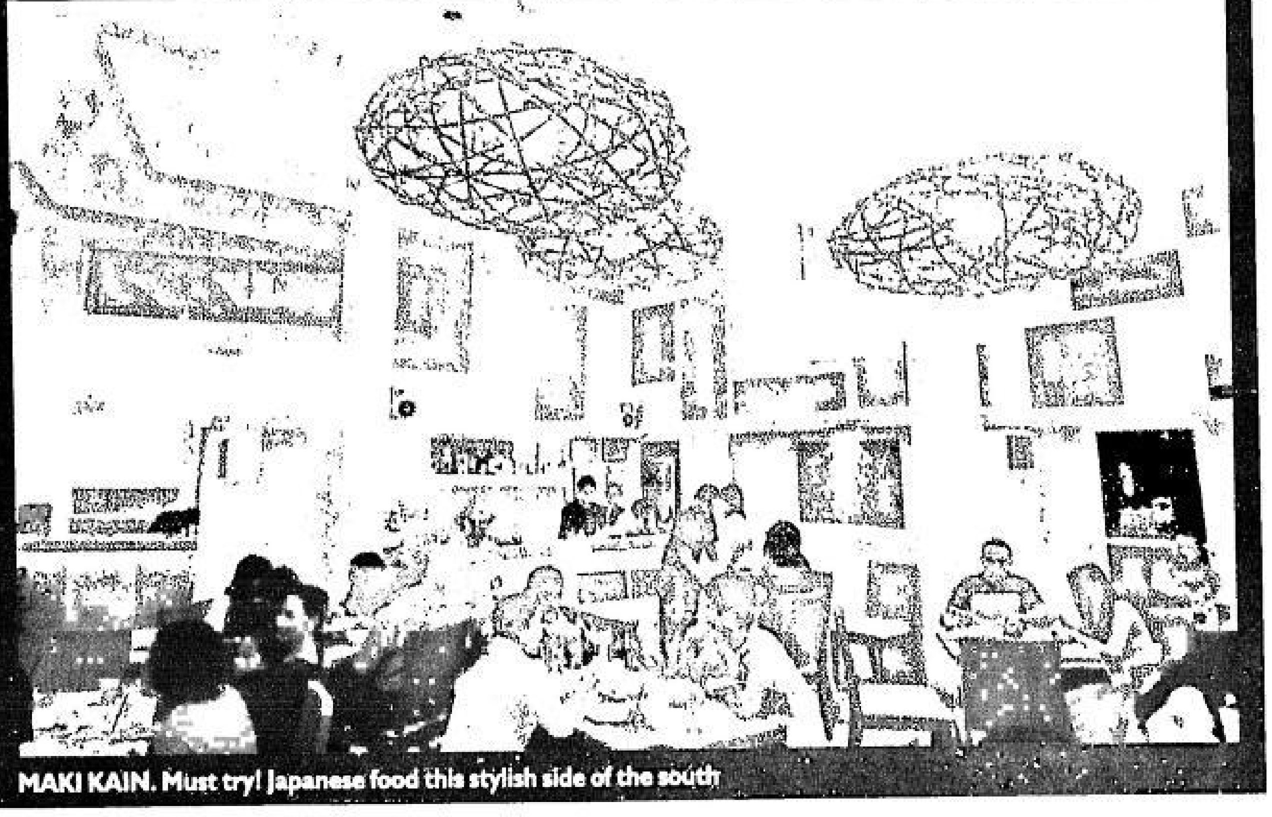
That night, we hopped to next door party spot Flow where I was proven right in my notion that the most beautiful Filipinos live in Iloilo and Bacolod. (Okay, other cities, peace be with you.) **Champ** of the band Hale even popped by for a visit, and agreed with me on my opinion of the Ilonggos as we toasted the night with good friends and great vibes.

On this page you'll see snaps from both Iloilo and Boracay party hops. The Bora photos are courtesy of **Freida Dario**'s seductive shutters, all taken within the confines of Cafe Med, now managed by formerly Manila-based **Mark Santiago**. His bro, DJ **Antz Santiago** takes turns on the music tables with him.

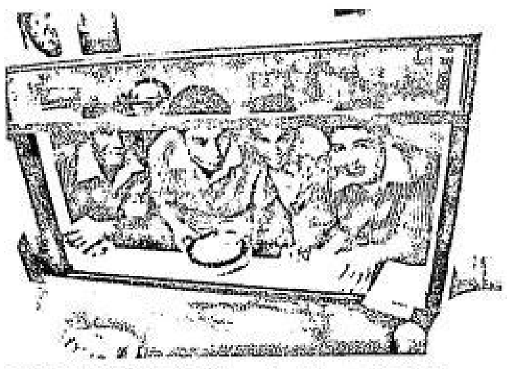
"I am the G.O.M. of Cafe Med—that's girlfriend of manager!" Freida declares that as her official role. Already the center of after-parties, this place is also air-conditioned—perfect when the weather gets this hot. As the name suggests, they also serve mouth watering Mediterranean dishes, just like the people behind the establishment.

Also on the same shores, I chanced upon the taping of the QTV show "Katoque"—a Saturday noontime cooking show where student chefs battle it out on an impromptu situation. This time, the setting was the beach. It was such a treat watching them give a million renditions to tuna. And I sampled it all. Yum! Century Tuna should hire these Super! chefs to make special variants! That night, chef and TV host **Darlo Lopez** proposed marriage to girlfriend **Rosanne Santiago**. Now that's even yummier!

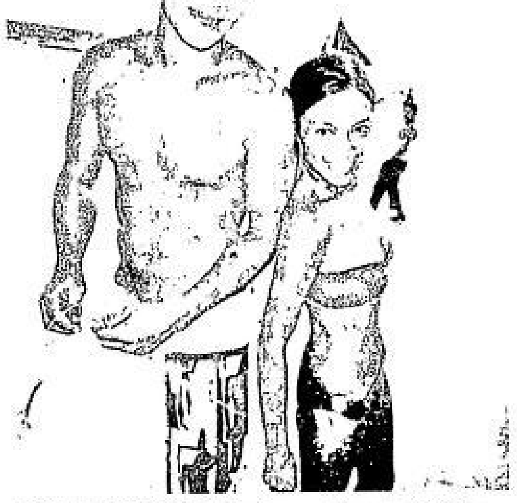
It's a Super! Saturday once again—so where will you be tonight?


MAKI KAIN. Must try! Japanese food this stylish side of the south

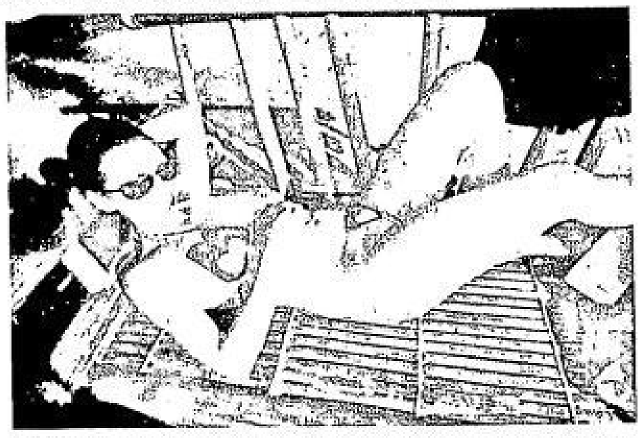
OUTSIDE LOOKING IN. An Ilonggo nightout starts with dinner at Maki

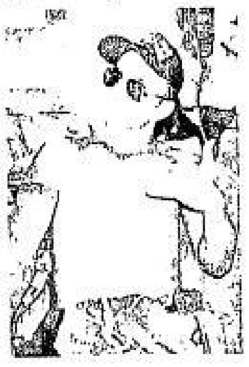

KITCHEN MAKI. Clean inside and out is Maki's mantra.

MGA "KATOQUE." Rochelle Cababay, Rosanne Santiago, Nino Logarta, Issa Litton, Jonah Trinidad, Ogie Sugatan, JL Cang, Michi Sison, Darlo Lopez and Lisa Ruivivar share their culinary experties in Bora


SUMMER LOVIN'. Swiss gentleman Julian with Pinay stunner Rosanna Yulo

BORACAY BUDDIES. Direk Ogie Sugatan with his staff, the best cameraman and audioman Benjie and Rio


GUEST STARRING IN THE SUN. Issa Litton is hot, hot, hot!


R N' B FAVORITE. In demand MC and B-boy Mark Reyes

KATOQUE IT UP. Lisa Ruivivar soaks up under the sun.

At Cafe Med in Boracay

LONDON TO BORA. Josel Espinosa and Jun Poblador

BORA Beach Club & Cafe Med's Ischia Bar owner Ariel Abriam with lovely wife Mimi

EAST WEST. Manolet Dario & Thea Froekjaer

MTV GRIND. Francis Lumen and Julia Duncan

SMART BUDDIES. Epy Quizon and Ira Cruz

POWER OF THREE. Freida Dario with brothers Mark & Antz Santiago

JUICY FRUITS. Juice Bar's Christine San Diego with Bora royals Nenette Graf & Eric Page

CEBU ROYALTY IN BORACAY. Mito Osmeña, Cacay Moras & Joey Server

DRINKING BUDDIES. Jackie Castillejo, Mike Guingona and Aba Maramba

LUCKY TRIO. Ina Zamora, birthday boy Vince Chao and Neil Paras

HIROYUKI Iwaki, sales and marketing director of Panasonic

Digging the digital alternative

SNAPSHOTS AND SHUTTER CLICKS WILL turn into masterpieces as Panasonic unleashes a night of spellbinding photography exhibit entitled, "Living Passions by Panasonic," converging five professional photographers in the country. Utilizing the latest technology, the all-new Lumix DMC-L1 digital camera promises to revolutionize artistry and passion for living in celebration of Panasonic's 40th founding anniversary.

Wig Tysman, Mandy Navasero, Jeanne Young, George Tapan and Jim Paredes take on the challenge of capturing the essence of water, earth, metal, wood and fire, respectively, to bring out the beauty of the five elements of life.

Aiming to create a next-generation digital alternative to the conventional film camera, Panasonic has focused on developing digital cameras that deliver beautiful photographs—clear, detailed, richly expressive images free of unwanted digital characteristics—plus easy, satisfying, intuitive shooting.

"Living Passions by Panasonic" seeks to highlight the strengths and exciting features of DMC-L1 along with convening the most respected Filipino professional photographers in the country for their best portrayal of desire and enthusiasm for living.

"Symbolizing intense passion and zest for living is best manifested by people who are born with the keen eye for beauty and deeper meaning," explained Hiroyuki Iwaki, sales and marketing director of Panasonic. "With Panasonic's collection of innovations, immortalizing every meaningful moment takes art into a whole new dimension."

Panasonic also introduced its most recent collection of stylish digital cameras that will take all photography aficionados into a picture-perfect adventure.

"We are now focusing our technology on marketing high-definition products as a highly visual culture is evident today," Iwaki said.

"With this kind of technology, even the smallest detail of the picture is given its due importance as a piece of an expressive whole."

Go ahead, take your own plunge into the world of digital photography.

WYG TYSMAN, Mandy Navasero George Tapan, Jeanne Young, Kathy David and Raffy Paredes

HIROYUKI Iwaki showing off the Lumix DMC-L1 digital camera

Wyeth

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   and a chance to win one (1) N95 Nokia phone or nine (9) Nokia 6020 phones in the weekly raffle.
2. Open the sticker to reveal entry code.
3. Text WYETH<space>Entry code<space>Name/Age/Address to 2305 to redeem the free Globe load and to enter the raffle. Only 1 raffle entry is valid per entry code.
4. Phonekit winners will receive a text message, registered mail and a phone call. The phone call will inform them of the designated Globe Hub branch at which they can claim their prize. To claim, winners must present the text and mail notification and 2 valid IDs.
5. Phonekits must be claimed within 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes (phone kits) after the deadline will be forfeited in favor of Wyeth Philippines, Inc. (WPI), with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
6. A participant can only win once during the raffle draw. Should a name be drawn more than once, the prize of a higher value shall be awarded and another name will be drawn as replacement.
7. All officers and employees of WPI, Globe, their advertising and promo agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
8. In case of dispute, the decision of WPI with concurrence of DOH-BFAD, shall be considered final.

Globe

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The world is a jungle

From page E1

ing a follow-up docu, "Jump Britain."

The first 10 or so minutes of the most recent James Bond film, "Casino Royale," likewise features Sébastien Foucan and a few parkour references. (Foucan is generally considered a second-generation founder of parkour, having developed it with his childhood buddy David Belle in their Paris suburb. However, he is now more associated with free running, a similar art that includes aesthetic moves like flips and spins.)

Despite the "Prison Break" angle, parkour is not at all about pissing off the narcs. It is, in fact, based on altruism. PK stems from Method Naturelle, a physical and moral education concept pioneered by the late Georges Hebert, a French physical education practitioner and one of the earliest advocates of the obstacle course form of physical training. But enough about dead dudes and movies. It's time for something better—the real deal.

PK in the PH

It's Saturday morning, 8 a.m. Most people my age are probably parked at after-after parties or barely crawling into bed. (You know, rock n' roll.) Meanwhile, I am casing the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym, on time—that is, too early—for my first-ever parkour newbie jam. Since all glossy-magazine day-in-the-life profiles of role models seem to start with exercise, my enthusiasm is, like, okay.

I spot Ira Villar, possibly one of the first Pinoy traceurs. I immediately put on my sleuth hat. "The early founding members and I decided to get into parkour about 3 years ago after seeing the documentary 'Jump London' on the Discovery Channel," says the 22-year-old. "This is about free running, and it helped our research on parkour later on. In a way, we were all leading to this, as we were all into physical sports and different martial arts."

Adding up to about 30 to 40 traceurs, parkour in the Philippines is slowly warming up, which is the way Ira thinks it should be anyway. The fledgling group has already earned column inches in the Ateneo Guidon, Manual Magazine, and FHM, and facetime on QTV's "Sapulso" and "RxMen" and GMA's "Mel and Joey." The core parkour crew has also taken part in events like the Nokia 5500 launch and the "Spider-Man 3" opening at the SM IMAX. Late this month, they'll be finessing the stage at Nickelodeon's Kid's Choice Awards. Not bad, right?

LIKE SPIDEY ONLY REAL. The core PKPH crew at the "Spider-Man 3" opening at the SM IMAX

MAD SKILLZ. Parkour entails soft landings and smooth transitions between moves and obstacles.

Adult jungle gym

The youngest traceur, Ira tells me, is a 14-year-old girl. (Who probably owns me when it comes to kongs and vaults—or not—but I'm getting way ahead of the story here.) Since the focus isn't on big jumps and drops, he says it's okay to begin training at any physical condition. "It's about calculated risks and slowly reaching your goal as opposed to just forcing it through," he clarifies.

Ira goes on to stress that parkour is "efficiency of movement in the urban environment," or anything with rails, walls, and ledges. Most practice spots are logically around parks and playgrounds. Circling back to the Blue Eagle Gym, I start seeing its awesome parkour potential.

From viewer to doer, my initiation kicks off with simple warm-up moves. (By the way, the gear is straightforward: a good pair of running shoes and loose, comfy clothing. Note: nothing skinny and emo.) I am first made to stretch and jog around the grade school parking lot. My secretly Canadian body is still not used to the May humidity and I learn firsthand what it feels like to be a self-basting chicken with an iPod. Whatevz.

Whoosh, zip, bam—not really

Then I train how to jump and roll. At first it's lame. (Like, of course I can jump and roll. Duh.) But the more I think about it, the more it makes sense. Personally, I'd rather take a week to learn to do the basics properly than break my leg being a newbie Superman. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will my abilities. Pinning the red and blue cape would have to wait.

Though my genes did not shortchange me in the legs department, the lexicon of maneuvers is still trickier than it looks. Parkour entails soft landings and smooth transitions between moves and obstacles, as opposed to stomping down and losing momentum like a hippo attempting ballet. Which is kinda like how I looked, I guess. Maybe it's dehydration (or the nasty cut on my leg), but I feel light-headed with humility.

My background in swimming, soccer, squash, tennis, weight training, and yoga (as well as my drunken stab at snowboarding and scuba diving) is a small ray of consolation, but I still have a long-ass way to go before I can call myself a mad-for-it traceur. So yeah, I expect to roll around a lot on the living room carpet and perfect my jump and landing in the safety of my backyard.

Look before you leap

"A lot of kids can get injured without proper training," Ira confesses, underscoring the importance of physical conditioning. Keeping yourself in tip-top shape is crucial since parkour uses most of your body to navigate hurdles. Not only do you need stamina; you need strength, speed, and power as well. "You can practice techniques once or twice a week, but what is more important is the development of the body."

To avoid falling into the all-important broken-bones category, a newbie traceur has to start slow, stay off rooftops, and keep everything within control. According to the co-founder of PKPH Parkour Philippines, parkour is not a quick trip. "There is no competition. You don't have to be better than the other guy. You're only against yourself, your fears, your obstacles and barriers."

LEAPS AND BOUNDS. Traceurs should be in tip-top shape since parkour uses the body to navigate hurdles.

It's not like "Jackass"

Your mom, dad, girlfriend, boyfriend, doctor or lawyer might think parkour is a bunch of "Jackass" hooey, but there's no tomfoolery unlike that old MTV show. "There are so many facets to parkour that cannot be instantly understood. These must be learned, researched, and experienced," Ira concludes. "I think it's sad that the media continues to portray the art as another 'extreme sport' or 'kids just jumping off things.'"

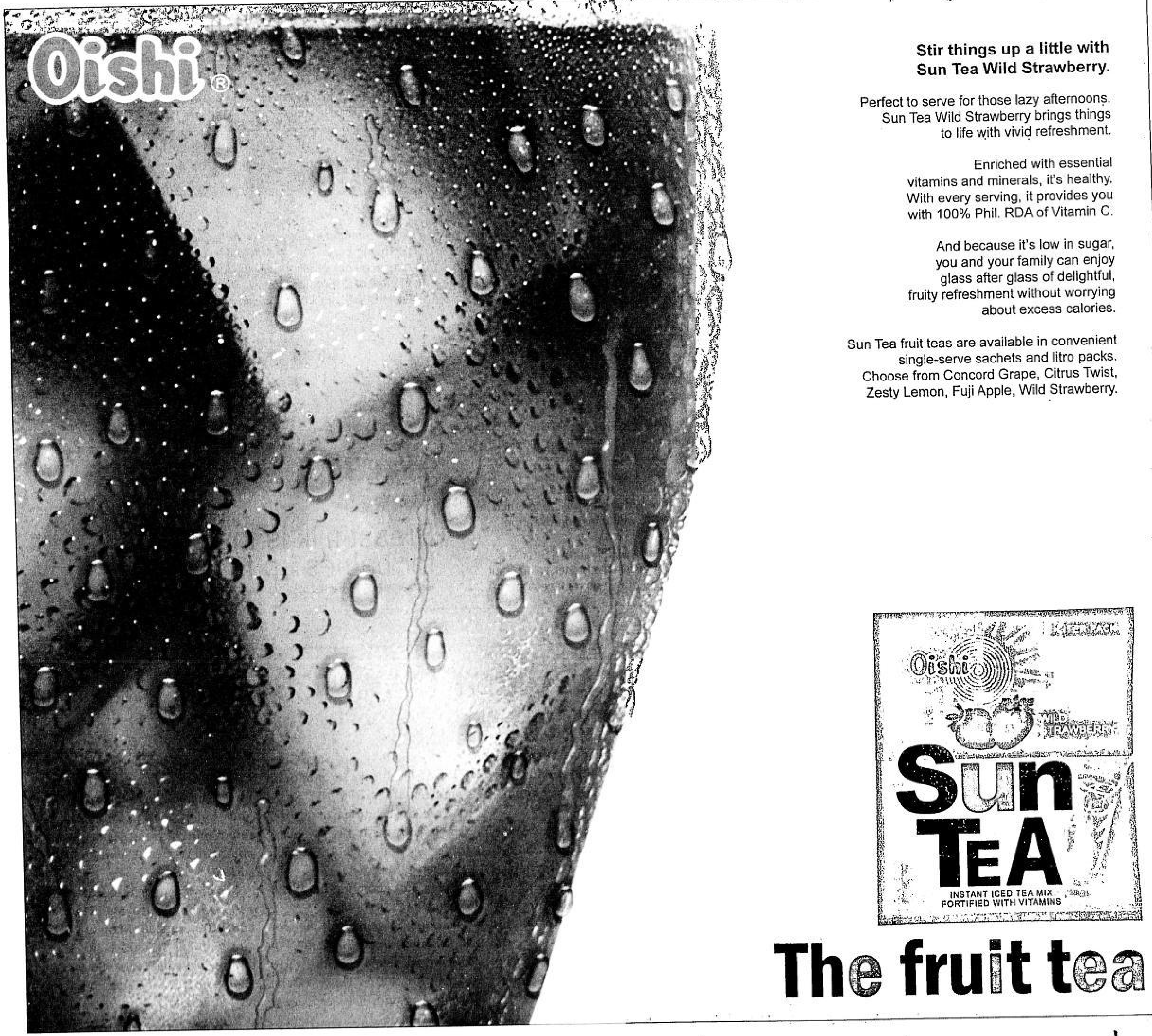
Now that Nike, Toyota and Adidas have used parkour in their ad campaigns, it's also possible that the practice is in danger of jumping the shark. In a previous issue of MTV Sticky, the youth network's trend feed, Michael Gillespie (a research director at Sadek Wynberg MIllward Brown) challenged the practice of completely unrelated brands slapping their logos on something in a bid to make it "cool."

The Next Big Thing?

"Now sorry if this seems harsh, but one could argue that when you have companies trying to get involved with a minority of young people who throw themselves off buildings as a means of selling more of a totally unrelated product, that perchance it's time to take a step back and look at where we are," Gillespie writes. "Youth marketing should not be about promoting parkour, capoeira (last month's parkour) or urban knitting (and no I haven't made that up) just because everyone is desperate to find the 'next big thing.'"

Gliding over walls and across benches may have a built-in cool quotient, but it's important to look at parkour's whole picture and go back to its roots. After all, David Belle did not develop the constantly evolving discipline to hawk phones or sneakers. He did it so that the practicing community of traceurs can live their lives in harmony. This is not only with the environment that surrounds them, but with the people they meet and the situations they run into. Parkour is about progression, continually looking to improve yourself and helping others along the way. Yeah.

(Wanna get involved? Visit Parkour_philippines@yahoogroups.com, pkph.multiply.com, and parkour.net. For inquiries, e-mail parkourphilippines@yahoo.com)



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Who's in it to win it?

By Nestor U. Torre

AS OF THIS WRITING (MAY 16), "American Idol" is down to its last three finalists—Melinda Doolittle, Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks. The popular tilt's "big reveal" of its winner is still two weeks away, but avid followers of the singing competition are second-guessing the voters and are figuring out who the "Ultimate Idol" will turn out to be. See if you agree with the "logic" of this extended argument:

On point of sheer singing talent, the favorite is Melinda. A former back-up singer and the oldest and most experienced performer in the troika, Melinda evokes musical memories of classy chanteuses of old, like Dinah Washington and Lena Horne.

Too mature

Could it be, however, that Melinda is too mature to win the top prize? Going by the salt-and-pepper-topped Taylor Hicks' victory last year, not really.

Still, Taylor was "old" *but* edgy and irascible, while Melinda comes across more like—a librarian! If most of the show's viewer-voters turn out to be teens and young-adults, this could prove to be a problem for Melinda.

SPARKS. Precocious self-confidence.

To be sure, she's shown in the course of the tilt that she *can* sex it up some—but, to some extent, her natural sweetness and shyness remain. So, the word's out to all lovers of innate musical ability: They've got to go all-out in "defending" Melinda with their gazillions of votes, otherwise the younger "final-finalists" will rule the day.

Comparing the two younger finalists, Blake

WHO'S IN/ F2

LEWIS. More experienced and versatile.

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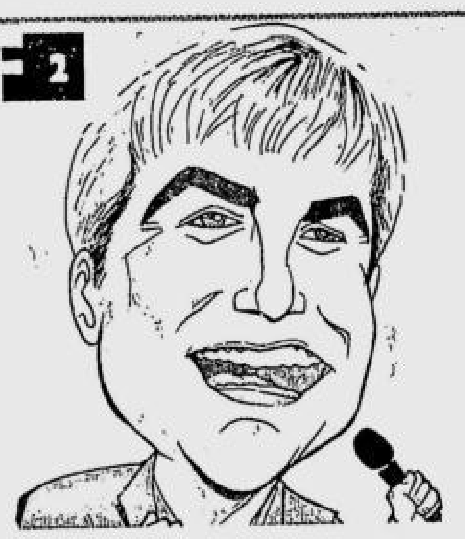
Who's in it to win it?

From page F1



HICKS. Who will his successor be?

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

comes across as more experienced and versatile, and his signature "vocal calisthenics" enable him to score extra points with some viewers (others think they can get a bit much, though).

Blake could also benefit from the show's predominantly female viewership, as did Sanjaya Malakar some weeks ago. Since he's the last male finalist standing—and cute, besides—so, all those giggly adolescents who flipped for Sanjaya could decide to support his bid for top "Idol-hood."

Debit side

On the debit side, however, Blake's singing occasionally comes off as (in Simon Cowell's kiss-of-death words) "too karaoke."—And, on a singing tilt, that's *not* OK!

For her part, Jordin is the youngest finalist in the tilt at only 17, so it's a marvel that she's survived this far. The reasons for this include her hugely compelling vocal instrument, her height and heft (which make her look older than her tender years), her versatility, and her precocious self-confidence.

All of these plus points, plus the youth factor in the voting, suggest that, when the final votes are added up, it's Jordin who will emerge as "AI's" Ultimate Idol.

Relevance

Of course, some things could still go wrong during the tilt's last performance episodes. Barring major catastrophes, however, Jordin could turn out to be "it." Her victory would go a long way in further "youthening" the singing contest's ethos and relevance, despite its having extended its age limit for contestants upwards.

In the past, other teens also made it to the finals, but Jordin's advantage over them is her relatively more mature projection, which makes it easier for both judges and voters to see her as a winner who'll be in the biz to stay.

Postcript: It's Thursday, May 17, and the two remaining Idols have just been announced. Shockeroo: Melinda's out! It looks like our "youth" argument has ruled the votes, hence the survival of "young ones," Blake and Jordin.

Who will win in the "final-finals"? Oddsmakers bet on Jordin over Blake—but the show's millions of viewer-voters always have the final say, and they could have yet another shocker in store for everyone—before "AI" 2007 finally reaches its slam-bang conclusion!

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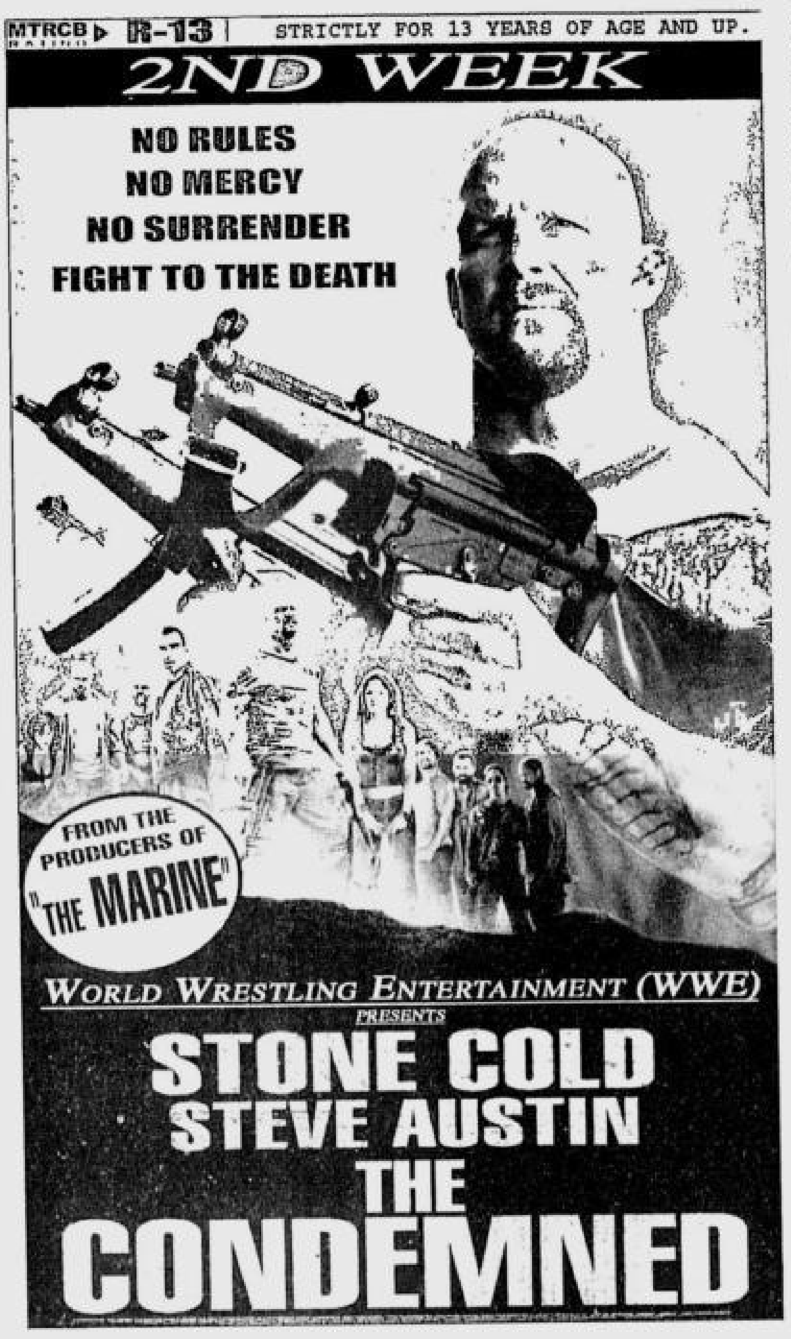

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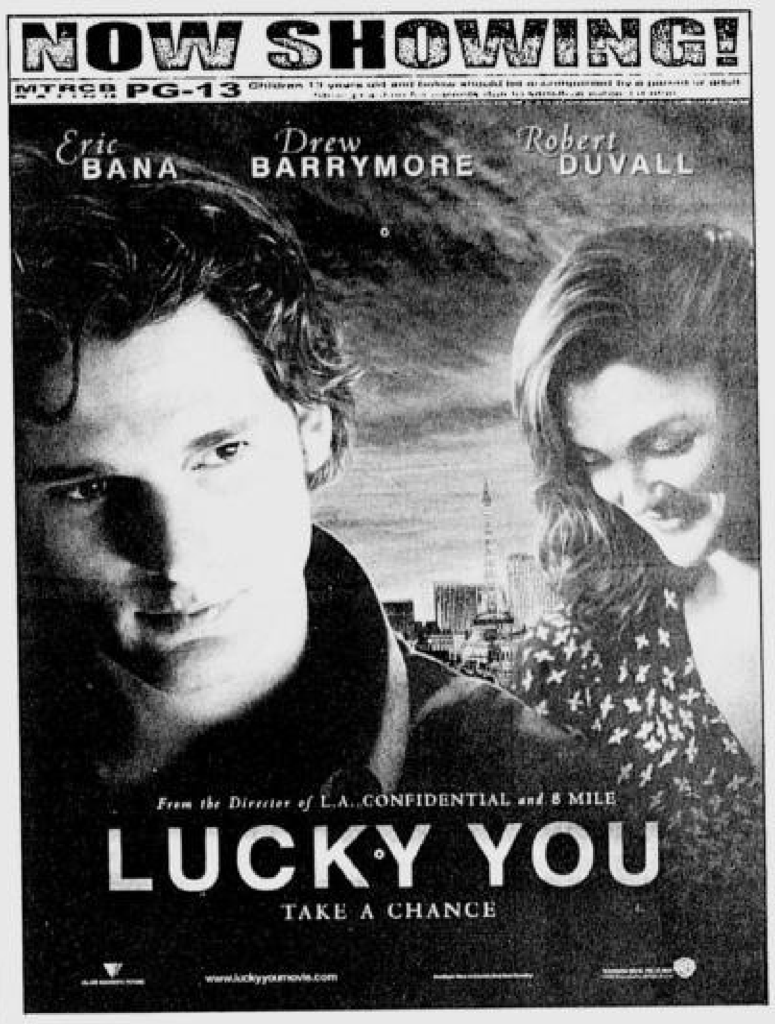

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	3 FRACTURE	4 WHISPER	5 SHREK 3			
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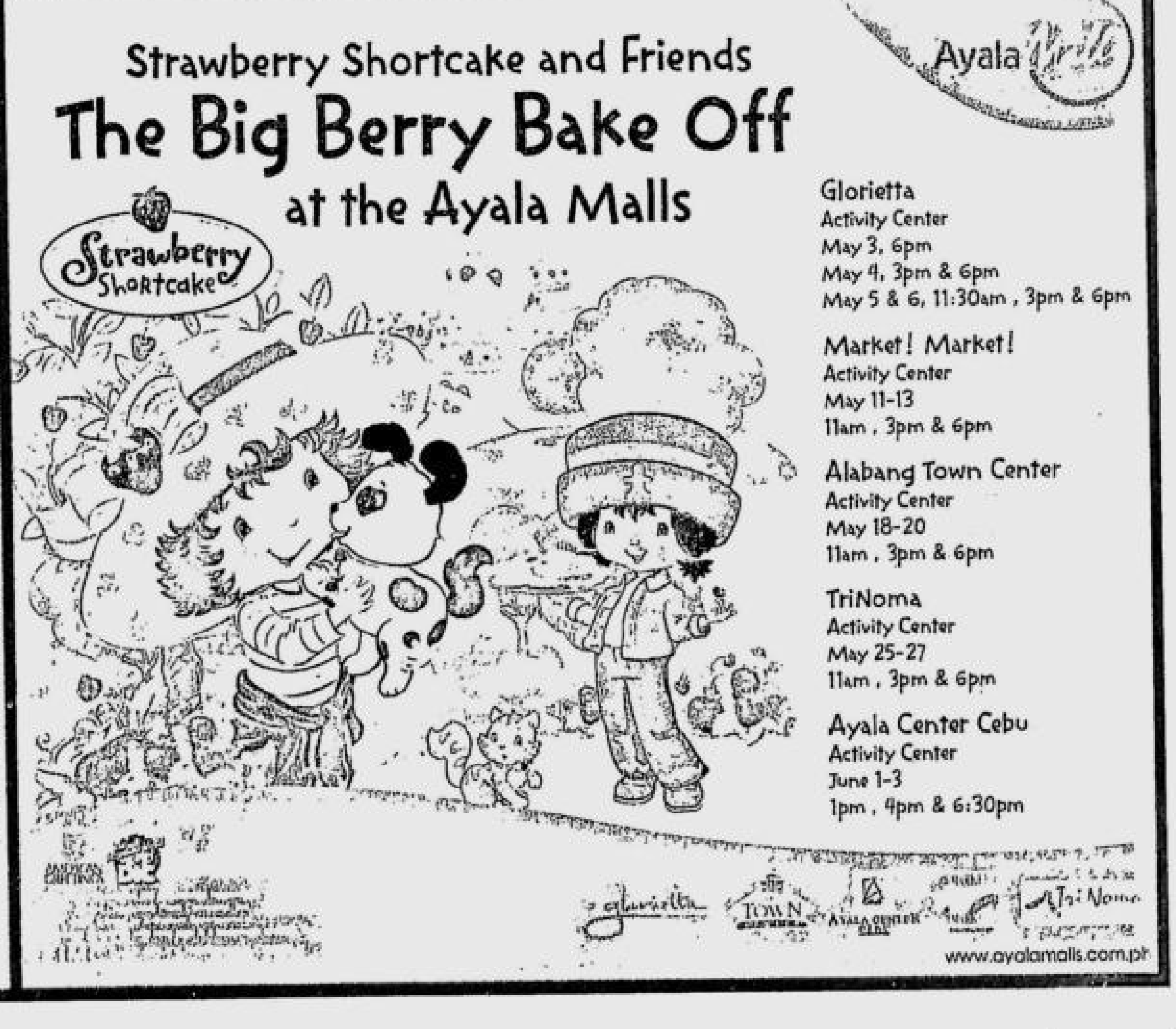

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Shoddy shock tactics in middling thriller

By Noelani Torre

A GROUP OF DESPERATE EX-CONVICTS kidnaps a rich lady's little boy, holds him for ransom and, as horrible things start to happen, begin to realize that the child they've abducted isn't as innocent as he appears to be.

It's not hard to imagine why a filmmaker would want to make a movie out of a premise like this—it's like "The Omen" and "Ransom" combined, two blockbusters for the price of one.

One and one don't always make two, however. Sometimes, they don't even make one. This is the case with the supernatural thriller, "Whisper," which doesn't quite manage to follow through on its promising premise.

Black dog

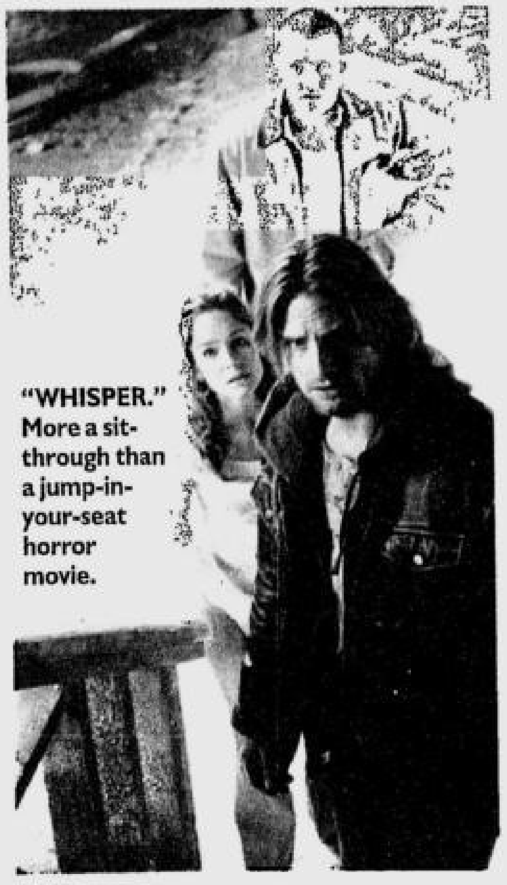
The movie opens promisingly enough: It's winter in the woods, and a young woman is being chased by a big black dog (which, if you know your horror history, is obviously a hellhound). The chase is sufficiently fast to get your blood pumping, but your heart calms down after that.

It will, in fact, remain calm for long stretches of time. It only picks up its pace when subjected to a cheap thrill—after which, it calms down again.

Horror movies can get away with a cheap thrill here and there, but if most of the scares come from shoddy shock tactics, then that's just cheating—or being lazy. Viewers expect more from horror flicks these days, especially now that we've been exposed to the fresher attacks of Asian and J-horror filmmakers. We want to be terrified witless, not just surprised by a jack-in-the-box move.

The movie is "Lost" star, Josh Holloway's feature film debut, as it is director Stewart Hendler's. This is perhaps the reason why the film feels underdeveloped, as though it were merely the first draft. Holloway doesn't hold your attention for long. As for the devil child, David (Blake Woodruff), he is more annoying than frightening.

As a whole, "Whisper" is more a sit-through than a jump-in-your-seat horror movie. The scares are middling, and the suspense isn't as taut as it could have been.



"WHISPER." More a sit-through than a jump-in-your-seat horror movie.

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Reinventing . . .

From page F4

when Raymond Red's short film, "Anino" (2000) bagged the Golden Palm, the Philippines' first ever. Other than Red's breakthrough win, only a handful of Pinoy directors and films have graced the French festivities, including Lino Brocka ("Insiang," "Jaguar," "Bona"), Mike de Leon ("Kisapmata," "Batch '81") and Mario O'Hara ("Babae sa Breakwater").

With "Foster Child," Tan's film outfit reinvents itself and makes a significant shift in its film programming. Robbie, who's leaving for Cannes on the 21st, says it was only a matter of time before a project like "Foster" would land on his lap. He explains, "I don't see it as a contradiction. I produced those sexy flicks because there was a demand for them. But, I love the indie spirit—and the timing is right, because people are warming up to the idea of indie filmmaking.

"Last year, only about 50 local movies were produced—some 36 of them mainstream features, while the rest were digital indies. Cinemalaya has truly given the industry a much-needed shot in the arm, and we're winning a lot of accolades in the international market.

Fresh concepts

"I want mainstream cinema to realize that the indie wave offers the option of utilizing fresh concepts and themes while still using the same filmmaking style—that way, you don't compromise a movie's technical quality. I've always wanted to do a film that could be shown around the world. 'Foster,' a 35 mm feature with an overtly indie concept, allows me to do just that, because its theme about foster parenting has global appeal. It will also be the opening film of the Third Cinemalaya Film Festival in July.

If you think Tan is placing all his bets on "Foster Child," think again. Next month, Joel Lamangan's "Silip," Seiko's latest commercial offering since Jose Javier Reyes' "I Wanna Be Happy" (shown in January last year) will be shown in commercial theaters. The sexy psychological thriller is topbilled by his prized contract stars, Diana Zubiri and Francine Prieto.

How does he see himself 10 years from now? How does he want to be remembered? He takes a moment to answer, then he smiles: "I'll be retired by then. I'll just be watching movies, and reminiscing about the best moments of my life. When the time comes, I hope people will remember me for the good films I made!"

SUN CELLULAR SPONSORS AXN CHALLENGE

Sun Cellular's media manager, Abe Abarquez (left), and AVP for prepaid, Joan Dueñas (right), award winners of the Shoot-out stage of the AXN Mall Challenge sponsored by Sun Cellular. The AXN Amazing Mall Challenge held last April 21 at SM Megamall featured 30 teams who vied for the top prize of P30,000, plus gift items from sponsors.

We'll tell you a story on why the first instant misua from Nissin doesn't taste like instant because we need more than a paragraph to explain to you that we didn't create it instantly.

It all started in 1910, when Momofuko Ando, the inventor of instant ramen and the founder of Nissin was born. Orphaned as a child and sternly raised by his grandfather, Mr. Ando transacted business as a give-and-take affair; that is, if you take too much and give too little in return, you end up killing the other person and losing everything.

Nissin was founded on this win-win principle.

Hunger brought out the inspiration.

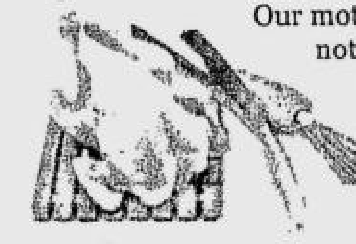
In the spring of 1958, post-war Osaka had been reduced to ashes. There was little to eat; food lines stretched around dark street corners. It was here that Mr. Ando saw people dazed with hunger, on their feet for hours, all for a bowl of steaming ramen. In two years' time, he created and distributed the first instant ramen from his backyard.

What started out as neighborhood fare ended up as one of the world's favorite meals for hungry people who can't wait.

From then on, Mr. Ando never stopped, inventing Nissin Cup Noodles in 1971 and other technological innovations in the instant food industry—the latest being the first Space Ramen in 2006.

Now the same Japanese spirit of innovation is being used to make the first instant misua from Nissin—a proudly Pinoy noodle—in Cup Noodle format.

Nissin has achieved a fusion of Pinoy taste and Japanese technology.

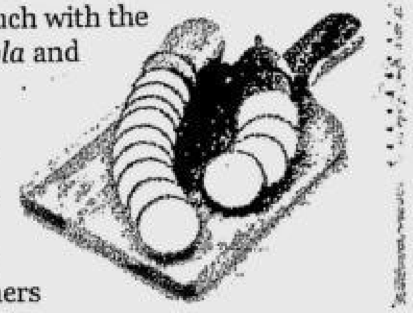


Distinctly Pinoy. Misua mismo.

We searched the local countryside, going as far as Batangas for the perfect misua. We tried everything from roadside eateries to gourmet restaurants—anything to capture this classic Pinoy rice noodle. We were looking for the right texture, thickness, color and the clean translucency of true misua.

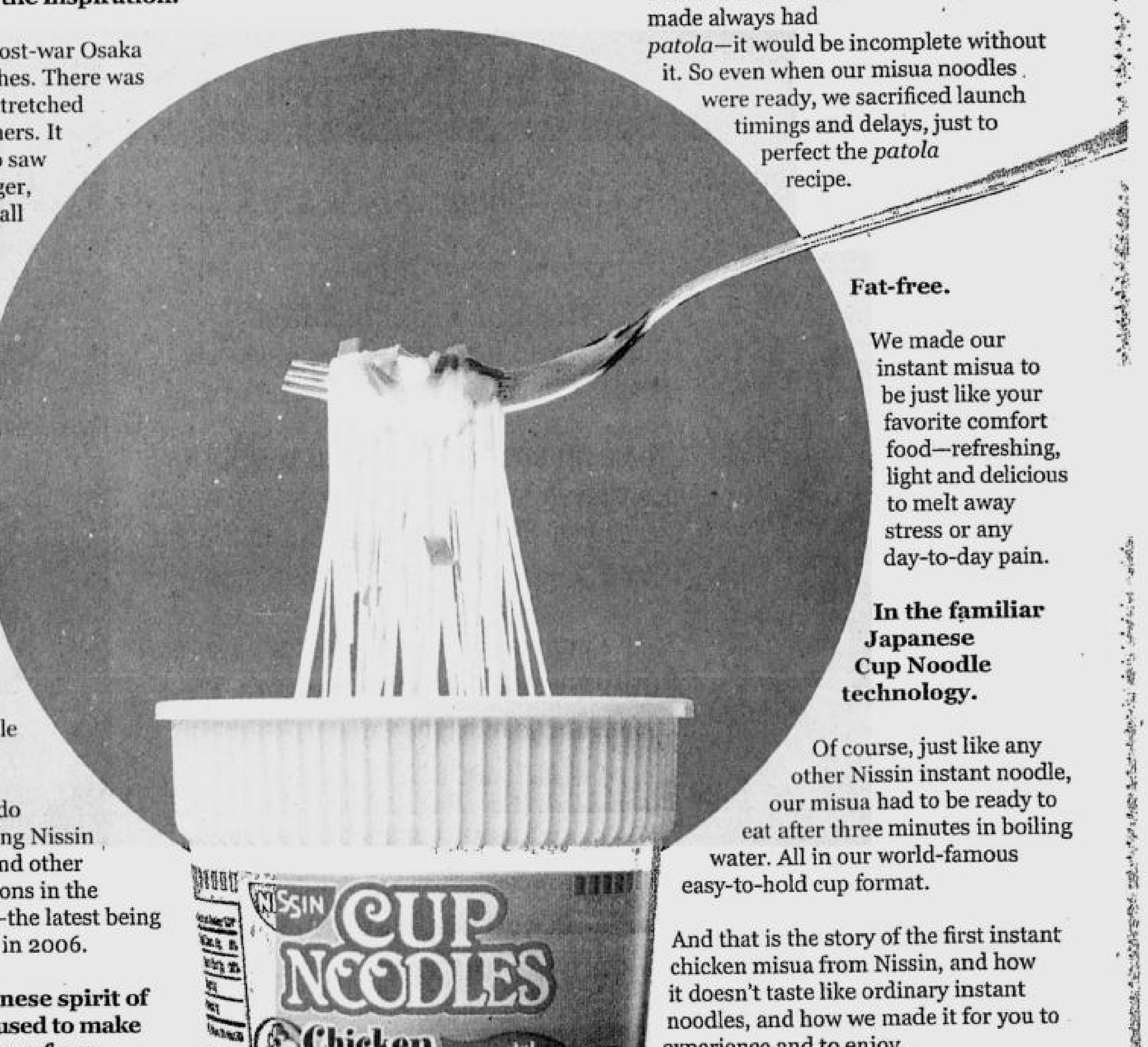
Chicken Misua for the soul.

Our mothers knew all along. There's nothing like chicken misua to calm a restless heart or to soothe an ailing soul. It has to be prepared with great love and care to be able to do this. That's why we didn't tamper much with the *sinaunang patola* and chicken mix.



Enhanced by *patola* flavor.

The traditional misua our mothers made always had *patola*—it would be incomplete without it. So even when our misua noodles were ready, we sacrificed launch timings and delays, just to perfect the *patola* recipe.



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And that is the story of the first instant chicken misua from Nissin, and how it doesn't taste like ordinary instant noodles, and how we made it for you to experience and to enjoy.

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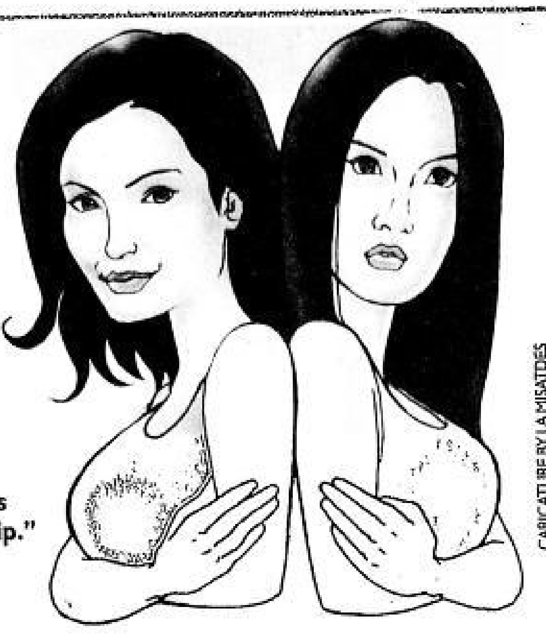
Reinventing Robbie Tan



CARICATURE BY LA MISATDES

PRIETO AND ZUBIRI. Seiko's prized possessions will co-star in "Silip."

By Rito P. Asilo

MORE THAN ANYTHING, SEIKO FILMS' Robbie Tan is known for the sexy films he produces. In the '70s, he released his first movie, "Balatkayo," starring local Tinseltown's then sex goddess, Alma Moreno.

Tan's film outfit has since racked up more than 230 motion pictures—including the company's biggest box-office hit, 1987's "Black Magic," starring comedy king, Dolphy.

In the '80s, and unknown to many, he discovered a petite teenage looker with a mind of her own. The pretty lass would later make waves in Star Cinema's romantic dramas and on ABS-CBN's telenovelas: Claudine Barretto, who first appeared in Seiko's youth-oriented screen romps like 1993's "Pulis Patola" and 1994's teenage-romance, "Muntik na Kitang Minahal."

As a producer, however, his bread and butter projects were of the sexy and naughty variety. He conceptualized and "created" classy bold stars out of the enigmatic Stella Strada II ("Puri"), Priscilla Almeda ("Sariwa"), Diana Zubiri ("Kasiping"), Francine Prieto ("Liberated") and the irrepressible Rosanna Roces ("Kirot 2"). He turned the elegant likes of Zsa Zsa Padilla, Gretchen Barretto, Rita Avila, Rina Reyes and Cristina Gonzales into screen nymphets who captured the collective imagination of the Filipino male.

Image

But, there's much more to Robbie's bold film-impresario image than meets the eye. Tan has been a staunch advocate of the country's indie filmmaking movement, as the burgeoning number of independent filmmakers he's helped nurture in the Cinemalaya and Cinema One film festivals know only too well. With his straightforward ways and imposing presence, Robbie can make you feel uncomfortable. But, while he says things as he sees them, he says he only has the best intentions.

So, when director Brillante "Dante" Mendoza ("Kaleldo" "Masahista") texted us that his latest film, "Foster Child," a drama starring Cherry Pie Picache and produced by Tan, has been invited to grace the Directors' Fortnight of the 60th Cannes Film Festival, we were delighted.

The last time the country made a dent at the world's *numero uno* film fest was

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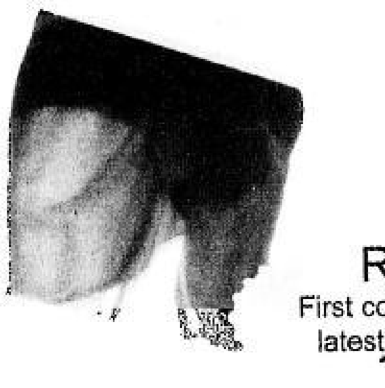

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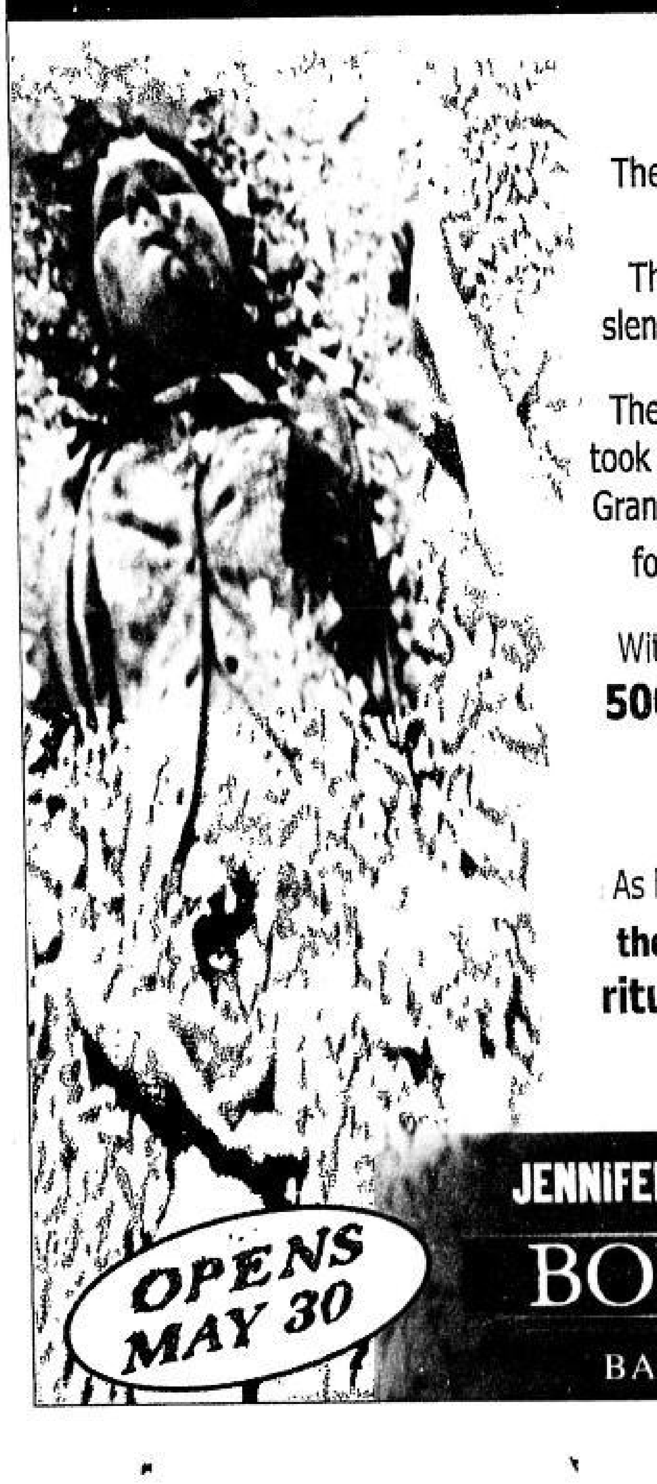

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As bodies continue to turn up, so have a host of **theories**. Perhaps victims of **dark satanic rituals, organ harvesters , femicide** or **misogyny**???

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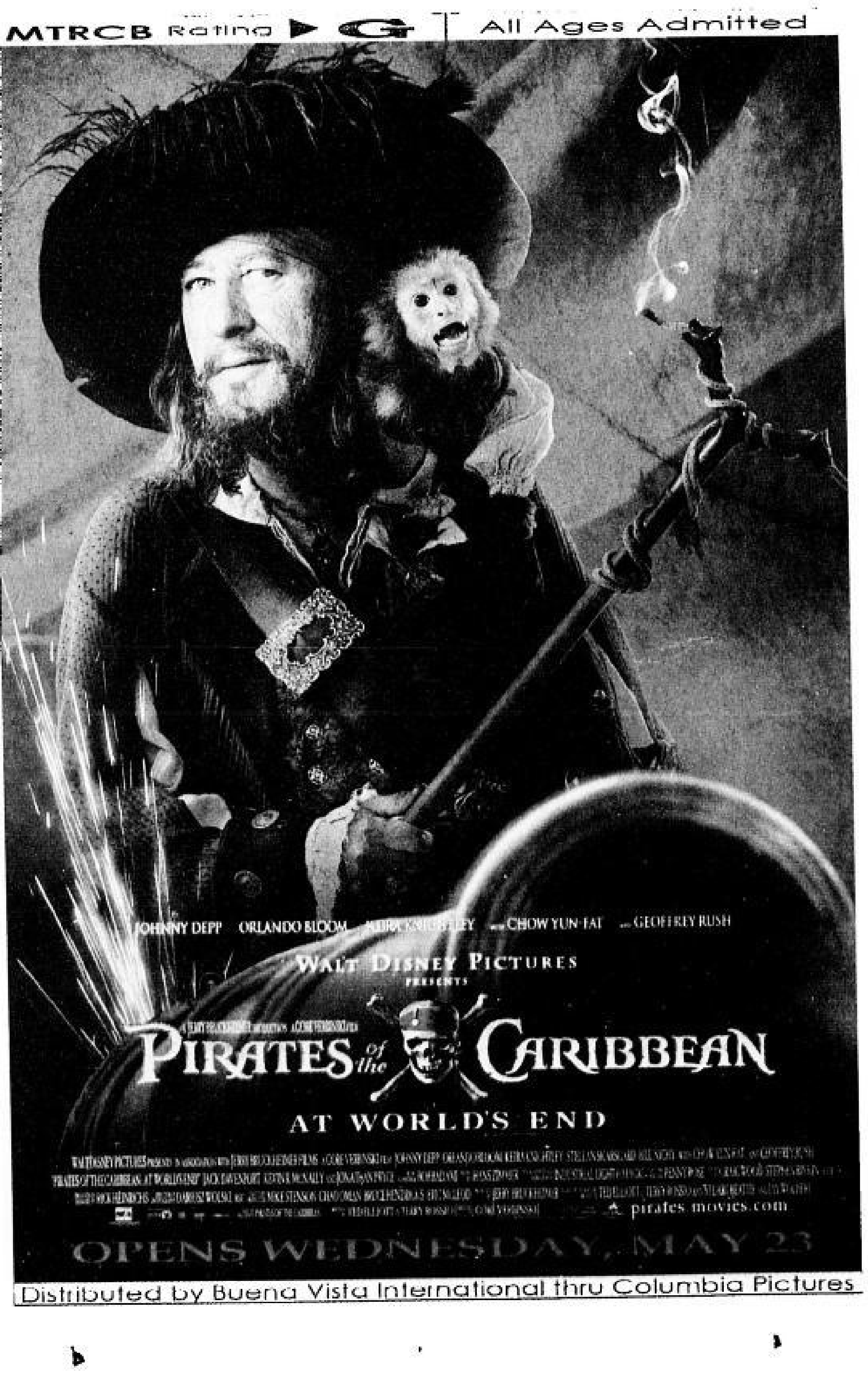

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SATURDAY Special

DAUGHTER in dire straits.

Ruffa and Annabelle cry their hearts out on competing shows

MOTHER knows best?

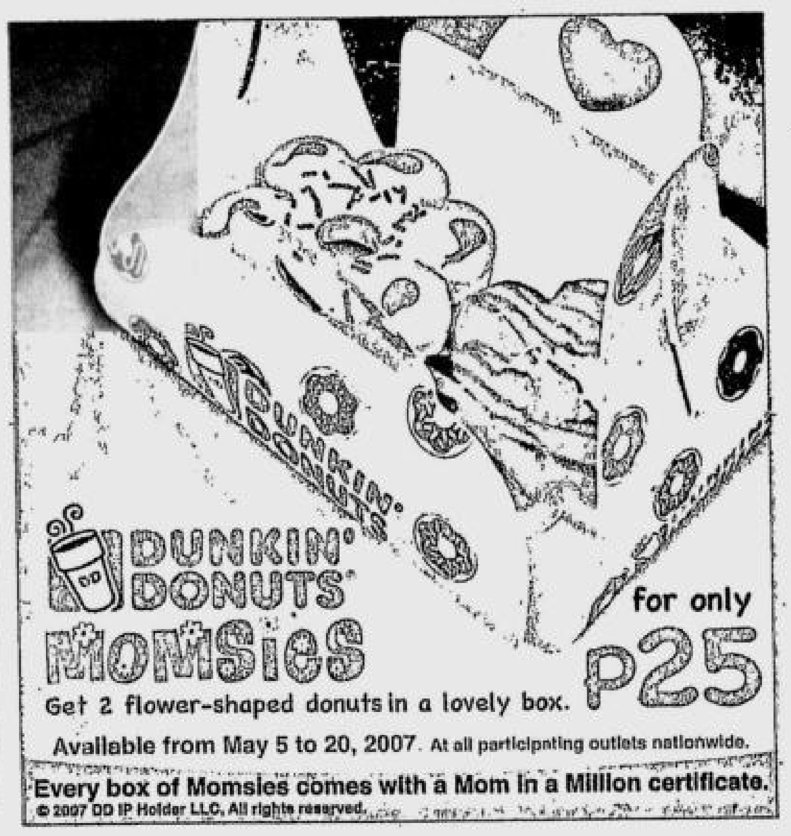
By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SUNDAY, PHILIPPINE TELEVISION came up with a unique "confrontation" that's one for the pop-cultural books: On ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," Ruffa Gutierrez was crying her heart out as she detailed her marital woes—while, on GMA 7's "Show Biz Central," her mother, Annabelle Rama, also broke down as she recalled how she had urged her daughter to leave her husband after four unhappy and possibly violent years of marriage.

Daughter and mother pretty much talking about the same topic, but from different perspectives and on competing TV channels—*that* really is TV entertainment as only *Pinoys* can whip it up!

It was logical for Ruffa to unburden herself on "The Buzz," because she's its replacement female host (for Kris Aquino). But, what was Annabelle doing on "Show Biz Central"? Well,

RUFFA/ G2



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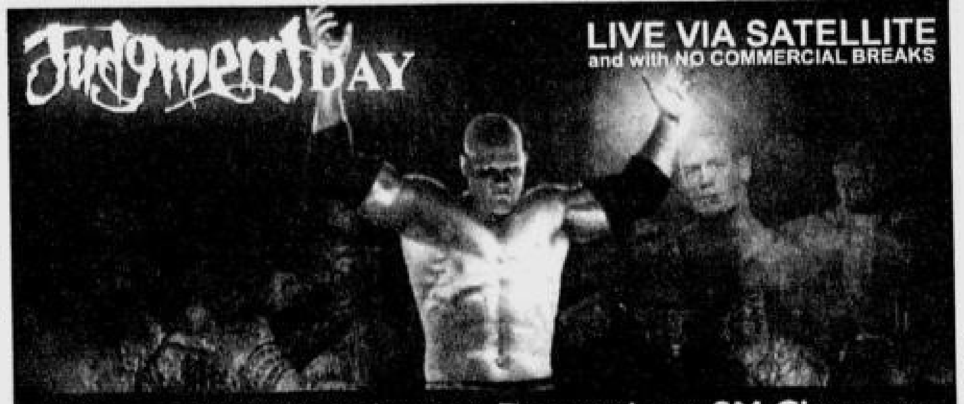


Witness WWE's Judgment Day at these SM Cinemas:

Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa

Premiere Screening:
May 21 (Monday) • 7:00 p.m.

Admission Prices: P 300 (Metro Manila) • P 200 (Cebu, Clark, Pampanga) • P 150 (Davao)
*With P 50 OFF for students

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0242
IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3
10:30AM 1:30PM 4:30PM 7:30PM 10:30PM
Admission Prices: P 300 (Before 5 p.m., Mon-Thu)
P 350 (After 5 p.m., Mon-Thu; Whole Day, Fri-Sun, Holidays)
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 FRACTURE
6 WHISPER
PREMIERE CINEMA
SHREK 3
CENTERSTAGE
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SHREK 3
CINEMA 2
SPIDER-MAN 3
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
5 FRACTURE
6 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 28 WEEKS LATER
10 CONDEMNED
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SHREK 3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 FRACTURE
7 LUCKY YOU
8 CONDEMNED
9 WHISPER
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 FRACTURE
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 CONDEMNED
7 SHREK 3
8 WHISPER
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SHREK 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 LUCKY YOU
9 WHISPER
10 CONDEMNED

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED
5 WHISPER
6 FRACTURE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHREK 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 28 WEEKS LATER
7 CONDEMNED
8 WHISPER
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 FRACTURE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 CONDEMNED
11 28 WEEKS LATER
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SHREK 3

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

SHOWTIME
Event Calendar

THE WAIT IS OVER
SHREK 3
Now Showing

Everyone IS INvited to VISIT
SHREK 3
CAMP FAR, FAR AWAY
TODAY
at SM MegaMall Bldg. A Event Center
Join Shrek, Fiona and the Whole gang in Fun activities Such as Hop ball coral and tattoo parlor, FREE Loot bags, bookmarks and Nail decals, plus buy your "Shrek 3" Movie tickets!
NOW SHOWING
A [illegible] RELEASE
THROUGH [illegible]
MTRCB Rating: G (All Ages Admitted)

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 CONDEMNED
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 FRACTURE
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SHREK 3
8 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SHREK 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 WHISPER
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 FIREHOUSE DOG

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 PERFECT STRANGER
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE REAPING
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PAN'S LABYRINTH
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4 PERFECT STRANGER
5 WHISPER
6 SHREK 3

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 THE REAPING
2 SHREK 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SUNSHINE
4 THE LAST MIMZY

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PERFECT STRANGER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 WHISPER
6 ROCKY BALBOA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SHREK 3
2 THE SHOOTER
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TURISTAS
2 RESERVED
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 THE REAPING
7 RESERVED
8 PERFECT STRANGER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SHREK 3
4 WHISPER
5 TURISTAS
6 PREMONITION
7 PERFECT STRANGER
8 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 THE SHOOTER
3 SHREK 3
4 PERFECT STRANGER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Ruffa and Annabelle …

From page G1

as *über*-coincidence would have it, her son Raymond is one of the new show's hosts—so GMA 7 had its much-needed "answer" to ABS-CBN's guaranteed ratings-topper.

Of course, despite Annabelle's well-known mastery of purposeful histrionics and zinging retorts, Ruffa still ruled the day, since she was the central participant in the tempestuous marital drama. But we must note that, when it came to breaking down, Annabelle's copious tears eclipsed her daughter's own heartfelt cries.

She concluded her crying jag with an urgent plea to Ruffa not to go back to her husband, if she didn't want to kill her own mother. Well, Ruffa couldn't top *that!*

But, the unhappy and tormented wife scored her own points by revealing that, despite her marriage's fairy tale facade, it was in fact an occasionally traumatic union. This was a big shock to some viewers, who thought that Ruffa was living a privileged life with her dashingly handsome Yilmaz and their "princess" daughters.

Psyche

Not true, Ruffa wailed, as she railed against Turkish men who beat their women. She stopped short of actually declaring that she herself was a battered wife, but there was no mistaking the pain inflicted on her psyche.

Annabelle had her own bitter feelings to share, especially after Yilmaz's recently published letter complaining about a particular relative of Ruffa's who had contributed most to their marital woes. Naturally feeling alluded to, Annabelle retorted that she was only doing what any mother would do—protecting her daughter from unhappiness and pain.

Further, it was instructive to note that, even as the Gutierrez women spoke up strongly and tearfully, the male members of their family were the very souls of temperate speech and behavior, with not one of them threatening to go on the warpath in defense of the embattled Ruffa. Make of that what you will.

Domestic drama

Has this tempestuous, cross-continental domestic drama played itself out? Not likely. There was talk last week that Yilmaz would fly in to try to save his and Ruffa's shattered marriage. And insiders whispered that the estranged couple still called each other up 10 times a day! So, hope springs.

On the other hand, if the controversial hubby can't change his ways and solve Ruffa's problem with his "behavior," hope decidedly dims.

BEKTAS. Other side of the story.

Haven for learning

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

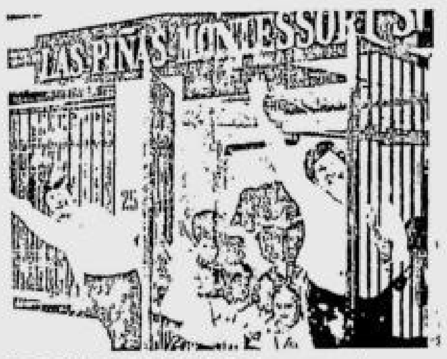
NESTLED IN THE heart of a beautiful village south of Metro Manila, the 22-year-old Las Piñas Montessori School (LPMS), at 25 Gumamela st. cor. Dama de Noche Circle, Vergonville subd., Las Piñas City, is a well-designed school with spacious classrooms.

Pupils as young as two years old are able to read and write. A student's innate love for learning is enhanced by activities in five areas of education: Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, Language, and Cultural Arts.

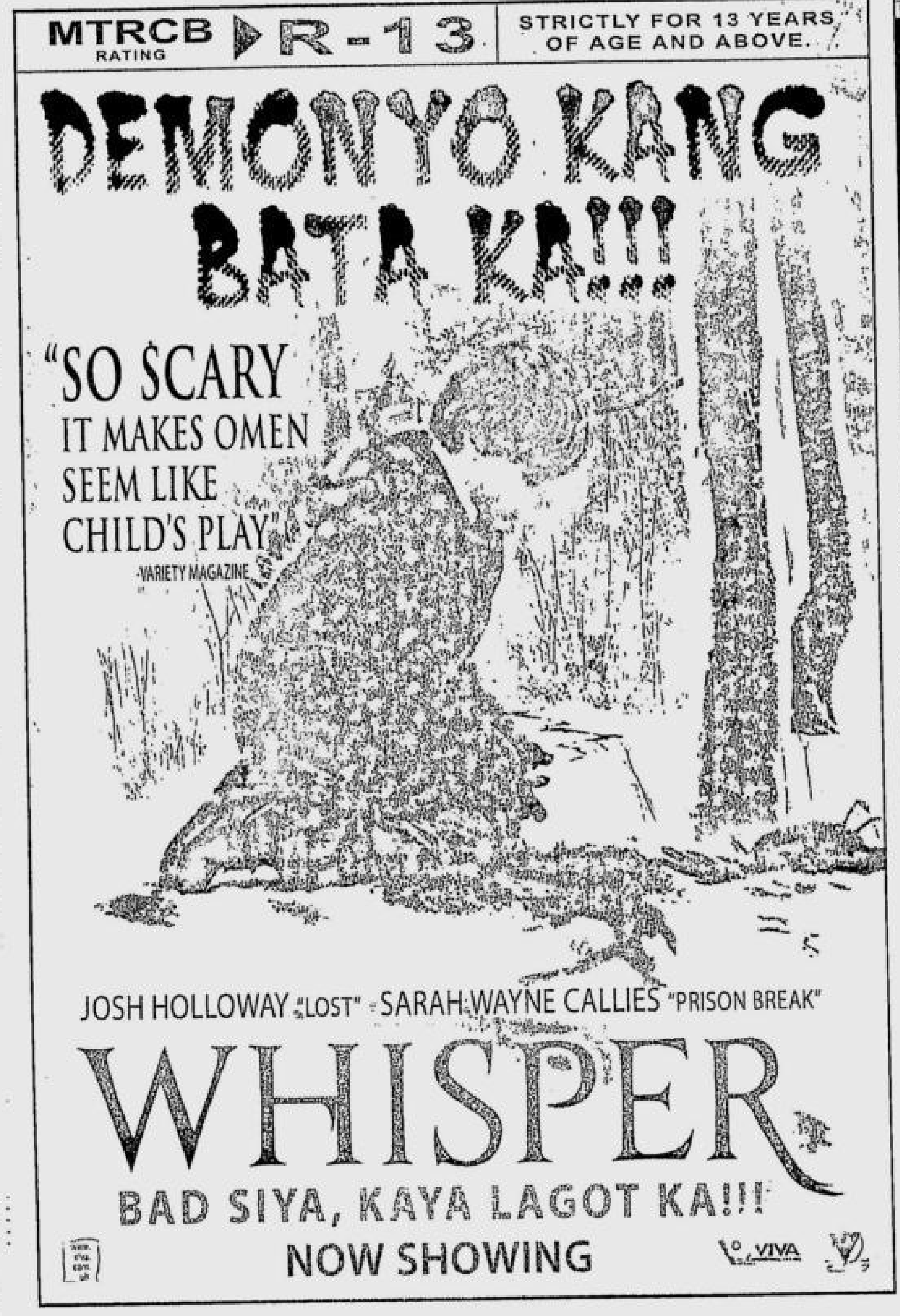
LPMS's special approach to education is through the Montessori Method, which was developed by its founder, Dr. Maria Montessori. The principle focuses on the interrelationship between a child and the institution's structured environment.

LPMS president, Mrs. Rowena Escover-Lorenzo, shares: "Children progress at their own pace and rhythm, and according to their individual capabilities—without losing the fun and effectiveness. Our teachers have become second parents to our pupils, who feel safe and loved."

Visit the school from May 20 to 31 during its open house. Call 871-1725 or 872-5808, or email lpms@yahoo.com.



LORENZO (RIGHT). Progress at students' own pace and rhythm.


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.
DEMONYO KANG BATA KA!!!
"SO SCARY IT MAKES OMEN SEEM LIKE CHILD'S PLAY"
-VARIETY MAGAZINE
JOSH HOLLOWAY "LOST" SARAH WAYNE CALLIES "PRISON BREAK"
WHISPER
BAD SIYA, KAYA LAGOT KA!!!
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza

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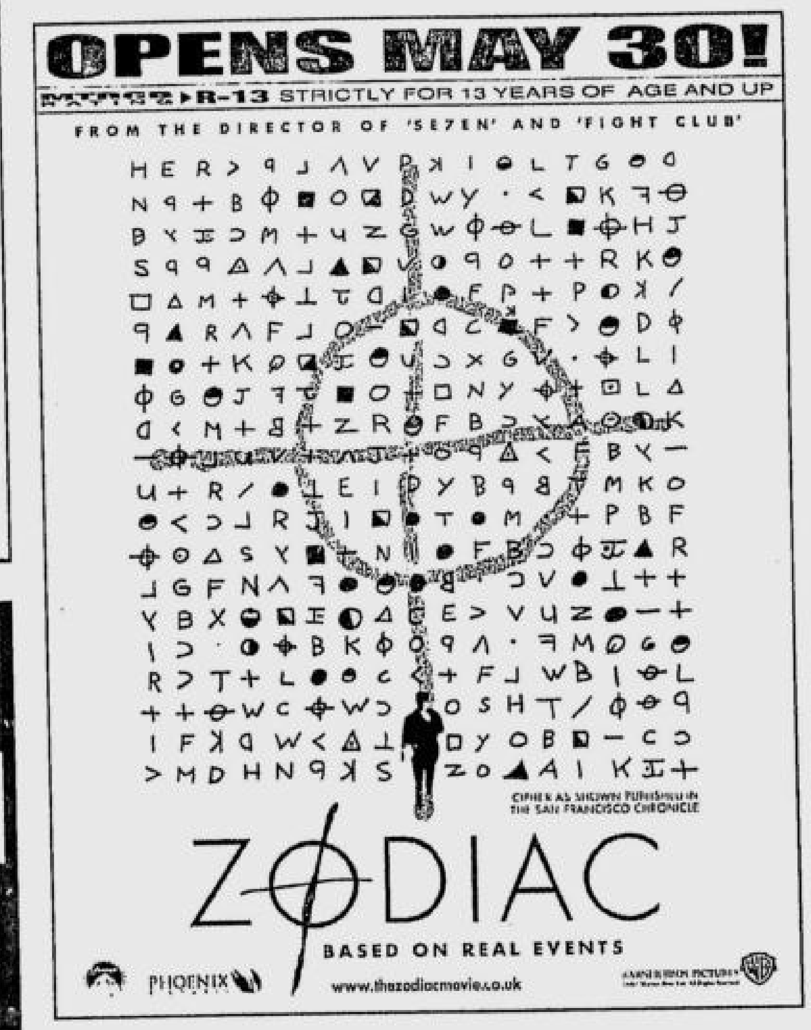
WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE AT POPULAR PRICES
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

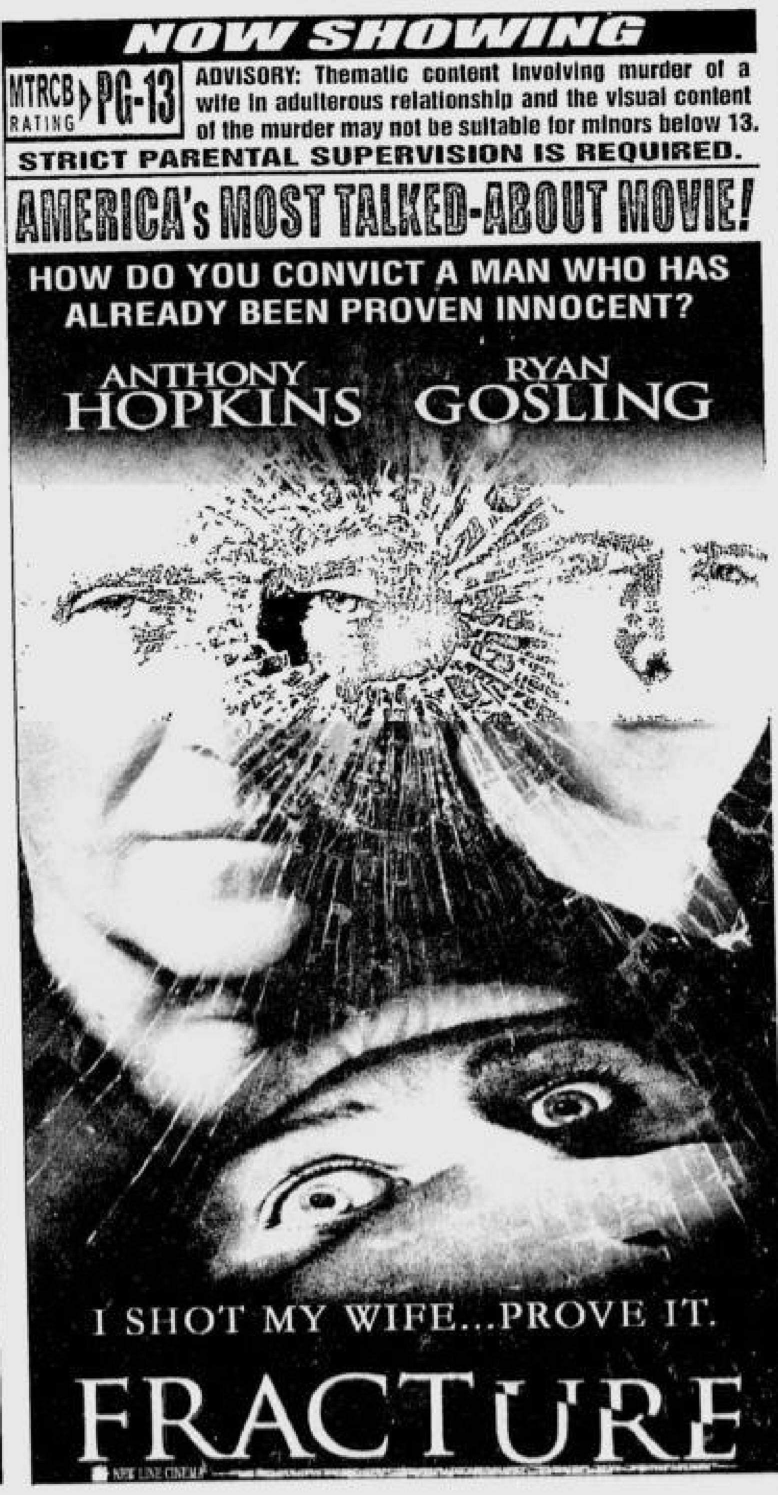
SPIDERMAN 3 12:15 / 1:15 / 2:10 / 3:10 4:10 / 5:05 / 6:05 / 7:05 8:00 / 9:00 / 10:00
SHREK 3 11:40 / 12:55 / 1:50 / 3:05 4:00 / 5:15 / 6:10 7:25 / 8:20 / 9:35
WHISPER 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
LUCKY YOU 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
28 WEEKS LATER 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
FRACTURE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
SHREK 3 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

AliMALL 5
1 SHREK 3 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:20 / 6:10 / 8:00
2 FRACTURE 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
3 SPIDERMAN 3 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
4 CONDEMNED 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
5 WHISPER 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

TUITION MO, SAGOT KO!
April 28 to June 30, 2007
Be one of FIVE winners of tuition fee rebates with every P500 purchase at Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza!
AliMALL FarmersPlaza Bacchus
See posters & flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0355 Series of 2007

3RD WEEK NATION-WIDE!
MTRCB Rating G All Ages Admitted
THE CRITICS AGREE: THE BEST "SPIDER-MAN" YET!
"★★★★...THE BEST OF THE TRILOGY... SERIOUSLY GOOD FUN..."
CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN, LONDON EVENING STANDARD
"WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR FILMS OF ALL TIME."
EXCESSIF (FRANCE)
"...BETTER THAN BOTH 'SPIDER-MAN 1' AND 'SPIDER-MAN 2' COMBINED. THE MOST AWESOME SUPERHERO BATTLES EVER."
FRED TOPEL, CANMAG.COM
TOBEY MAGUIRE
SPIDER-MAN 3
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


OPENS MAY 30!
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SE7EN' AND 'FIGHT CLUB'
CIPHER AS SHOWN PUBLISHED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
ZODIAC
BASED ON REAL EVENTS
PHOENIX
www.thezodiacmovie.co.uk


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 ADVISORY: Thematic content involving murder of a wife in adulterous relationship and the visual content of the murder may not be suitable for minors below 13.
STRICT PARENTAL SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED.
AMERICA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE!
HOW DO YOU CONVICT A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN INNOCENT?
ANTHONY HOPKINS RYAN GOSLING
I SHOT MY WIFE...PROVE IT.
FRACTURE
NEW LINE CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 (DOLBY) SHREK 3
2 (DOLBY) SHREK 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) WHISPER
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SHREK 3

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SHREK THE THIRD
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 FRACTURE

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FRACTURE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SPIDER-MAN-3
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504295, 5433094
1 CONDEMNED
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 ZOMBIES

THEATRES
SPIDER-MAN-3
SHOOTER
THE HILLS HAVE EYES

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-0271
SPIDER-MAN-3
SHREK THE THIRD
RESRVED
RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 SHREK THE THIRD
5 FRACTURE
6 SPIDER-MAN-3
7 WHISPER
8 SHREK THE THIRD
9 SHREK THE THIRD
10 CONDEMNED / LUCKY YOU

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 FRACTURE
5 SATANICA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SHREK THE THIRD
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 CONDEMNED

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SHREK THE THIRD
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 WHISPER
4 PAN'S LABYRINTH

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 TURISTAS

CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
4 FRACTURE / SPIDER-MAN-3

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PERFECT STRANGER
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 ROCKY BALBOA
3 (DOLBY) SHOOTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SHOOTER
2 SUNSHIE
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
4 THE REAPING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SHOOTER
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 ZOMBIES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 KATAS
3 SEX DRIVE
4 ZOMBIES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
2 RUMBLE BOYS
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 RAMPADORA
5 THE CHANTING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 THE REAPING
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SEX EDUCATION

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Big sale of fine handicrafts at ManoMano

THE MANOMANO FAIR TRADE STORE OF Safrudi (Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development Inc.) is celebrating its first anniversary this month with a big sale of its beautiful and unique Philippine handicrafts (until June 16).

MONTAGE

ManoMano has become a favored stop for shoppers and lovers of Philippine handicrafts because of the originality and high quality of its products. Being a Fair Trade Store, it also sets the pace for fair treatment of its workers and suppliers, and buyers are happy to support such enlightened practices with their patronage of ManoMano's wide range of products.

On May 26, Safrudi will celebrate World Fair Trade Day. There will be on-the-spot art and craft contests and other educational activities for children in line with this year's theme, "Kids Need Fair Trade." Call 564-4169.

Support ManoMano's fine handicrafts and fair trade initiatives by availing of its big first anniversary sale at 2594 Lamayan st., Sta. Ana, Manila.

BRICKMAN. New album.

'Escape'

Jim Brickman's latest album, "Escape," is his first compilation of original solo music in three years. Guest artists include Gerald Levert, Sara Evans, Marc Antoine, Jake Simpson, Geoff Byrd and David Klinkenberg.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, today at 4:35 p.m., "Apollo 13." Tomorrow at 9:40 a.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." May 21 at 2:10 p.m., "To Be the Best." May 22 at 4:40 p.m., "The Two Jakes." May 23 at 6:40 a.m., "All Quiet on the Western Front." May 24 at 5:10 p.m., "Fire Down Below." May 25 at 7:45 a.m., "Roman Holiday."

On HBO, today at 9:30 a.m., "Empire of the Sun." Tomorrow at 11 p.m., "Rumor Has It." My 21 at 7 p.m., "Back to the Future 3." May 22 at 8:15 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." May 23 at noon, "In the Name of the Father." May 24 at 5 p.m., "The Education of Little Tree." May 25 at noon, "Defending Your Life." 12:30 a.m., "Rome 15: These Being the Words of Marcus Tullius Cicero."

Grand summer finale

Winston's Summer Music Blast holds its finale today at Portofino, Cebu, with Parokya ni Edgar performing. Other shows: June 9 at Aruba, Mall of Asia, with Bamboo. June 15 at Gwello's, Eastwood Libis, with Imago. June 23 at Leyte Park, Tacloban City, with Sandwich. And June 29 at Mugen Bar, Metrowalk Ortigas, with Freestyle.

Moms 'n Kids Fair

A big Moms 'n Kids Fair is ongoing at SM Megamall until May 20, with star-studded activities, swimming for beginners, cooking demos, arts and crafts workshops, a My Mom and Me lookalike contest, fashion shows—etc.! Call 687-0654, or email cut@pldtdsl.net.

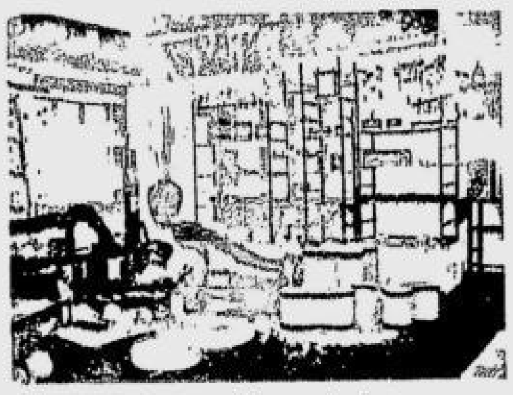
TV seminar

On Saturday, May 26, the Amanu Television Studio and SACAP in San Fernando, Pampanga will hold a seminar on the creative use of television for effective media apostolate.

The studio produces the acclaimed TV show, "Men of Light," and is now preparing to come up with other similarly illuminating programs, hence its ongoing media seminars and workshops.

On May 26, Nestor Torre will speak on creative and effective storytelling to communicate inspiring messages, while Kara David will talk about making TV documentaries.

Creative supervisor of Amanu's projects is noted TV-film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya.



FAIR Trade Store celebrates its first anniversary this month.

Like a never ending nightmare, abuse revolves around the cycle of violence.

According to women experts, abuse happens when an individual treats a person like mere property. For as long as the victim chooses to endure the abuse, the cycle of violence will never end.

It's beyond physical. *Abuse as purely physical in nature is a common misconception.* What most people do not know is that psychological, sexual and even economic forms of abuse may be used by an abuser to maintain power over the victim. When not addressed properly, these acts leave deep and ugly scars on the victim's whole being.

It is written. In March 8, 2004, Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as *"Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act"*, was enacted into law. In spite of this law's existence, cases of violence against women and children continue to increase. We are calling for stronger enforcement of this law. More importantly, we need to ensure that more people understand the issues affecting the rights of women and children.

The numbers have spoken. Based on the DSWD's 2006 figures, more than 12,000 cases of violence against women and children were reported. That means, 6 women were sexually abused *every week*, 4 wives fell victim to domestic violence *every day*, and 1 child suffered abuse *every hour*. These numbers reflect only reported cases. The actual figures are believed to be much higher.

Every woman or child you know can be a victim.

Break the silence.

Abuse is not a private matter.

You don't have to be a victim to care.

You've seen it happen.

You've heard the cries for help.

Now, it's time to speak up.

stop the abuse.
DRAW the LINE
women's desk

To report cases of abuse or to find out more about the Draw The Line campaign, call the Women's Desk Hotline 926-6598.

women's desk 10pm thursdays

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Manila / Luzon Ch 11 Cebu / Davao Ch Skycable Ch 14 Destiny Ch Sun Ch 11

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUD
THE LONG WAIT IS OGRE
DREAMWORKS
SHREK 3
shrek.com
NOW SHOWING
DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG
Solar Entertainment Corporation
PDI

Big sale of fine handicrafts at ManoMano

THE MANOMANO FAIR TRADE STORE OF Safrudi (Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development Inc.) is celebrating its first anniversary this month with a big sale of its beautiful and unique Philippine handicrafts (until June 16).

MONTAGE

ManoMano has become a favored stop for shoppers and lovers of Philippine handicrafts because of the originality and high quality of its products. Being a Fair Trade Store, it also sets the pace for fair treatment of its workers and suppliers, and buyers are happy to support such enlightened practices with their patronage of ManoMano's wide range of products.

On May 26, Safrudi will celebrate World Fair Trade Day. There will be on-the-spot art and craft contests and other educational activities for children in line with this year's theme, "Kids Need Fair Trade." Call 564-4169.

Support ManoMano's fine handicrafts and fair trade initiatives by availing of its big first anniversary sale at 2594 Lamayan st., Sta. Ana, Manila.

'Escape'

BRICKMAN. New album.

Jim Brickman's latest album, "Escape," is his first compilation of original solo music in three years. Guest artists include Gerald Levert, Sara Evans, Marc Antoine, Jake Simpson, Geoff Byrd and David Klinkenberg.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, today at 4:35 p.m., "Apollo 13." Tomorrow at 9:40 a.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." May 21 at 2:10 p.m., "To Be the Best." May 22 at 4:40 p.m., "The Two Jakes." May 23 at 6:40 a.m., "All Quiet on the Western Front." May 24 at 5:10 p.m., "Fire Down Below." May 25 at 7:45 a.m., "Roman Holiday."

On HBO, today at 9:30 a.m., "Empire of the Sun." Tomorrow at 11 p.m., "Rumor Has It." My 21 at 7 p.m., "Back to the Future 3." May 22 at 8:15 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." May 23 at noon, "In the Name of the Father." May 24 at 5 p.m., "The Education of Little Tree." May 25 at noon, "Defending Your Life." 12:30 a.m., "Rome 15: These Being the Words of Marcus Tullius Cicero."

Grand summer finale

Winston's Summer Music Blast holds its finale today at Portofino, Cebu, with Parokya ni Edgar performing. Other shows: June 9 at Aruba, Mall of Asia, with Bamboo. June 15 at Gwello's, Eastwood Libis, with Imago. June 23 at Leyte Park, Tacloban City, with Sandwich. And June 29 at Mugen Bar, Metrowalk Ortigas, with Freestyle.

Moms 'n Kids Fair

A big Moms 'n Kids Fair is ongoing at SM Megamall until May 20, with star-studded activities, swimming for beginners, cooking demos, arts and crafts workshops, a My Mom and Me lookalike contest, fashion shows—etc.! Call 687-0654, or email cut@pldtdsl.net.

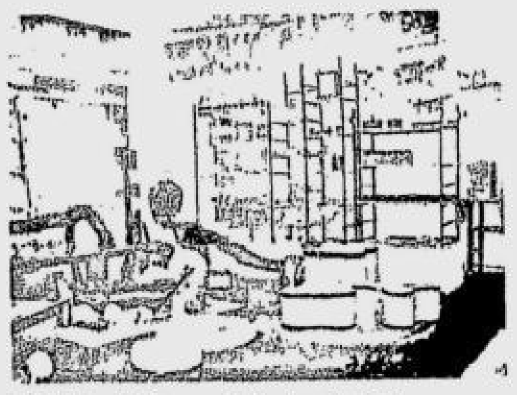
TV seminar

On Saturday, May 26, the Amanu Television Studio and SACAP in San Fernando, Pampanga will hold a seminar on the creative use of television for effective media apostolate.

The studio produces the acclaimed TV show, "Men of Light," and is now preparing to come up with other similarly illuminating programs, hence its ongoing media seminars and workshops.

On May 26, Nestor Torre will speak on creative and effective storytelling to communicate inspiring messages, while Kara David will talk about making TV documentaries.

Creative supervisor of Amanu's projects is noted TV-film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya.



FAIR Trade Store celebrates its first anniversary this month.

Like a never ending nightmare,
abuse revolves around the cycle of violence.

According to women experts, abuse happens when an individual treats a person like mere property. For as long as the victim chooses to endure the abuse, the cycle of violence will never end.

It's beyond physical. *Abuse as purely physical in nature is a common misconception.* What most people do not know is that psychological, sexual and even economic forms of abuse may be used by an abuser to maintain power over the victim. When not addressed properly, these acts leave deep and ugly scars on the victim's whole being.

It is written. In March 8, 2004, Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as *"Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act"*, was enacted into law. In spite of this law's existence, cases of violence against women and children continue to increase. We are calling for stronger enforcement of this law. More importantly, we need to ensure that more people understand the issues affecting the rights of women and children.

The numbers have spoken. Based on the DSWD's 2006 figures, more than 12,000 cases of violence against women and children were reported. That means, 6 women were sexually abused *every week*, 4 wives fell victim to domestic violence *every day*, and 1 child suffered abuse *every hour*. These numbers reflect only reported cases. The actual figures are believed to be much higher.

Every woman or child you
know can be a victim.

Break the silence.

Abuse is not a private matter.

You don't have to be a victim to care.

You've seen it happen.

You've heard the cries for help.

Now, it's time to speak up.

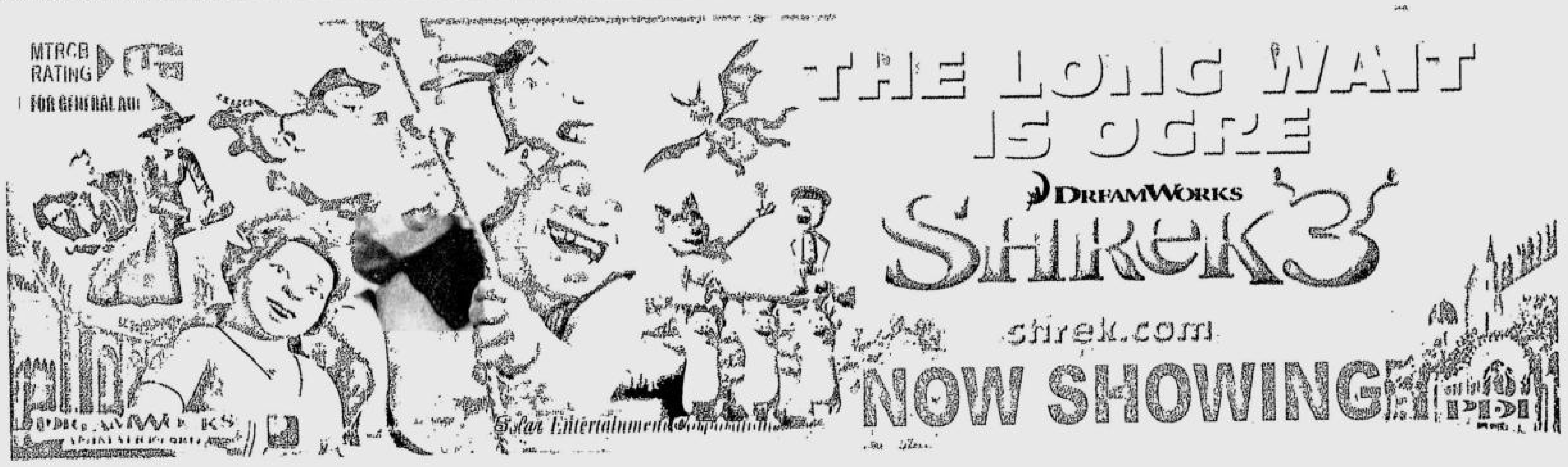
stop the abuse.
DRAW the LINE
women's desk

To report cases of abuse or to find out more about the Draw The Line campaign, call the Women's Desk Hotline 926-6598.

women desk 10pm thursdays

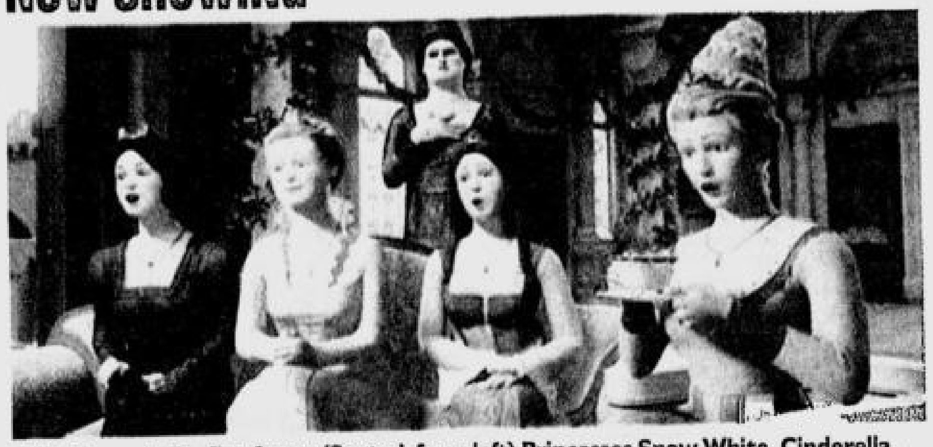
Powered by GMA NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS Serbisyong Totoo

Manila / Luzon Ch [illegible] Cebu / Davao Ch [illegible] Skycable Ch [illegible] Destiny Ch [illegible] Sun Ch [illegible]



SATURDAY *Special*

NOW SHOWING



GIRL Power in Far Far Away: (Seated, from left) Princesses Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel, with reformed stepsister, Doris (standing).

Ogres and villains figure in comic battle of wits

By Rito P. Asilo

"Shrek the Third"

D: Chris Miller

S: Voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas, Julie Andrews

SHREK, PRINCESS FIONA AND THEIR zany friends are back! And the irreverent deconstruction of fairy tales continues in Chris Miller's third installment of the misadventures of the large, green ogre and his wife in the land of Far Far Away.

Shrek (excellently voiced by Mike Myers), now the No. 1 heir to the throne, gets the jitters when he learns about Princess Fiona's (Cameron Diaz) pregnancy. When the Frog King (John Cleese) dies, the once ornery, flatulent Shrek realizes that he's not cut out for the crown—and that he's happiest in the musky surroundings of swampy Verminfield: Royalty, as well as fatherhood, simply don't become him!

With Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and Puss In Boots (Antonio Banderas) in tow, he sails off to Worcestershire to recruit Prince Arthur (Justin Timberlake), who's second in line to the throne. But, while handsome and kind-hearted, Artie turns out to be a dorky, broken-down outcast, who is constantly bullied by the dashing Lancelot and his underlings—and only the semi-retired Merlin (Eric Idle), who's recuperating from a recent nervous breakdown, can help Artie get his act together!

Elsewhere, in a dark tavern full of villains, the bitter Prince Charming (Rupert Everett), who's always wanted to be King Charming, makes a fevered speech that convinces fairy tale land's baddies like Captain Hook (Ian McShane), Cyclops, and the Wicked Witch to overturn their bad luck. Rousingly, he reasons, "Who says we don't deserve our own Happily Ever After?"

So, they prepare to invade the leaderless kingdom of Far Far Away! But, not if the Queen (Julie Andrews), Princess Fiona, Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, and reformed ugly stepsister Doris (still voiced by—gasp!—Larry King) have a say about the matter! Girl Power is alive and kicking even in fairy tale country!

With an adroit hand, Miller keeps the animated feature mirthfully amusing and entertaining. And even with predictability slowly encroaching, the voice cast remains reliable—albeit tamer and nicer. Unfortunately," nice" and "irreverent" don't always go together.

The franchise is likewise showing signs of middle-age tedium, with the film's belabored middle-third dipping considerably in terms of action and pacing. Ho-hum. After all, just how many more fairy tale fables can this well-meaning filmmaking team retell?

This time, even Little Red Riding Hood is reduced to stealing when chaos in Far Far Away erupts—and Puss and Donkey have to endure an uninspired body-swap sequence!

Despite these quibbles, "Shrek the Third" remains highly viewable. With comic irreverence and slapstick relish, and with tongues firmly in cheek, Shrek and his pals subtly remind viewers that, indeed, everybody deserves a happy ending—even bad guys and ogres!

Groban shows pop sensibility in 'Awake'

By Noelani Torre

AWAKE
josh groban

GROBAN. Co-wrote four tracks.

JOSH GROBAN GIVES US MORE OF the same in his most recent album, and, sometimes, something more than that. Fans will be glad to know that "Awake" features more of the grandly styled pop-opera he introduced to the public in his first two albums. As for those looking for innovations, there's something for them here, too.

Groban has tweaked his bestselling formula in his third studio release, though the differences may seem negligible to non-followers. For those familiar with the singer's material, however, these small adjustments might be indicative of more significant changes in the future.

Presence

One adjustment is the more audible presence of English-language songs. Unlike his previous releases, "Awake" contains more songs with English lyrics than those written in the Romantic tongues (i.e., Italian, Spanish, French). This makes one wonder why there was a predominance of those songs to begin with, especially since your typical listener isn't really familiar with those languages.

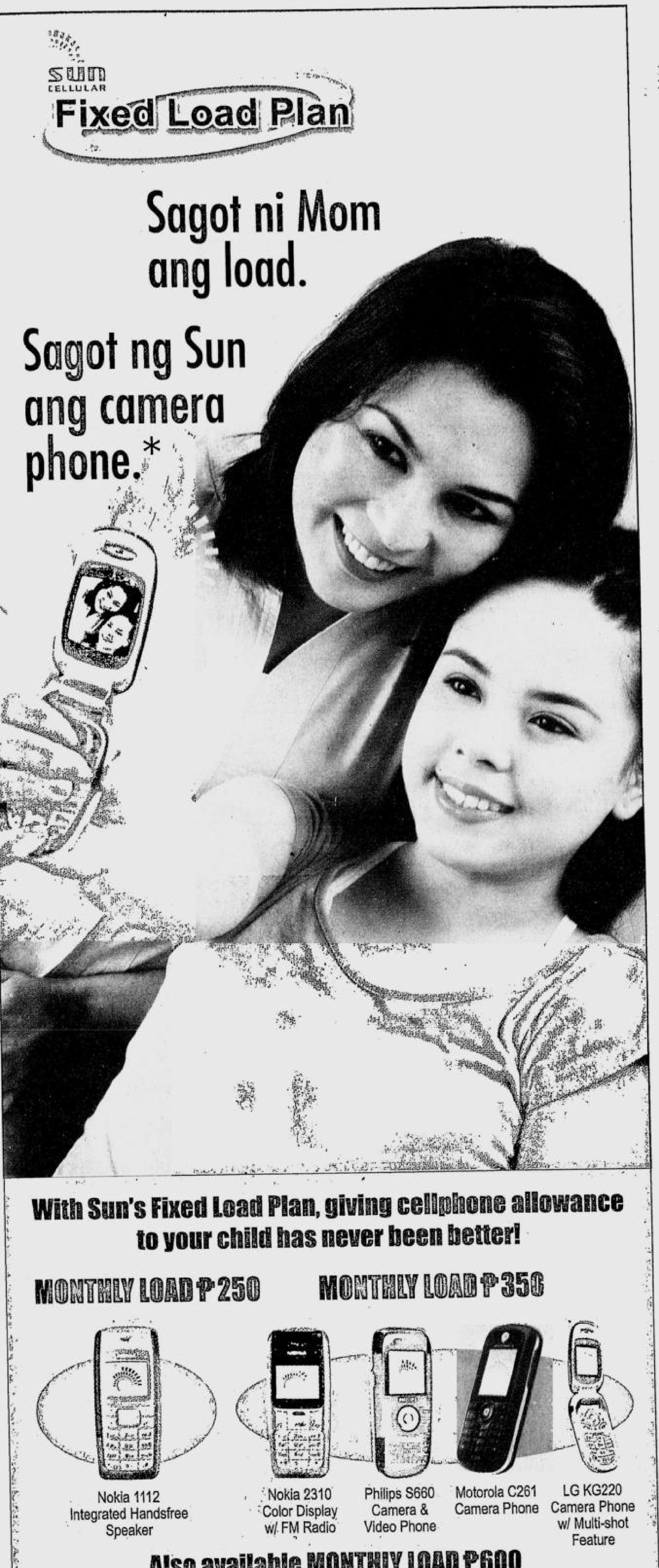
Then again, perhaps listeners don't care much about exact meanings—you have to admit the Romantic languages sound more, well, romantic. They lend a classy touch to everything; "L'Ultima Notte" has more snobbish appeal than "The Last Night." The higher proportion of English songs, however, may indicate that Groban is grooving towards a more pop sensibility.

Another thing that this twentysomething crooner is doing more often this time around is writing. He co-wrote four of the album's 13 songs, and he has some pretty well-known cowriters—among them Five for Fighting's John Ondrasik ("February Song"), Imogen Heap ("Now or Never"), and Dave Matthews ("Lullaby").

Inclination

"Awake" also features other artists whose presence gives added spice to a largely unsurprising record. But, unsurprising doesn't mean unpleasant. Indeed, unpleasant is the last thing you'd think upon listening to anything sung by Groban. He has a smooth-as-silk, technically proficient voice that isn't hard to listen to. Coupled with swelling strings and an inclination for soaring melodies, they all add up to an enjoyable listening experience.

For those who might find him too bland and stiff (despite all the operatic flourishes), listen to "Machine," a surprisingly funky number that hints at hidden, less-conventional depths.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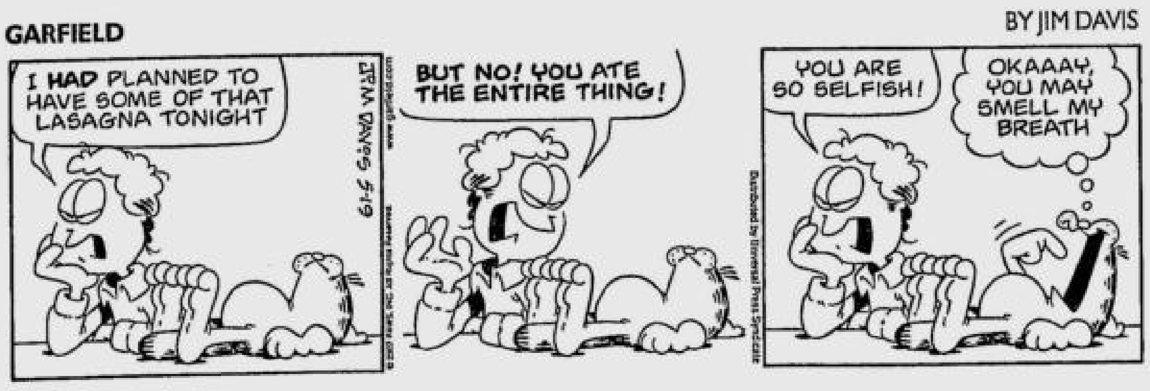
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007

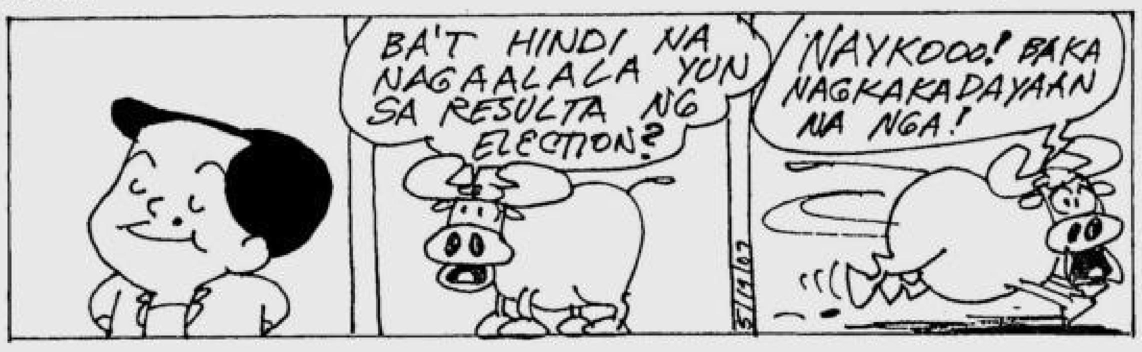
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I HAD PLANNED TO HAVE SOME OF THAT LASAGNA TONIGHT
JIM DAVIS 5-19
BUT NO! YOU ATE THE ENTIRE THING!
YOU ARE SO SELFISH!
OKAAAY, YOU MAY SMELL MY BREATH
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

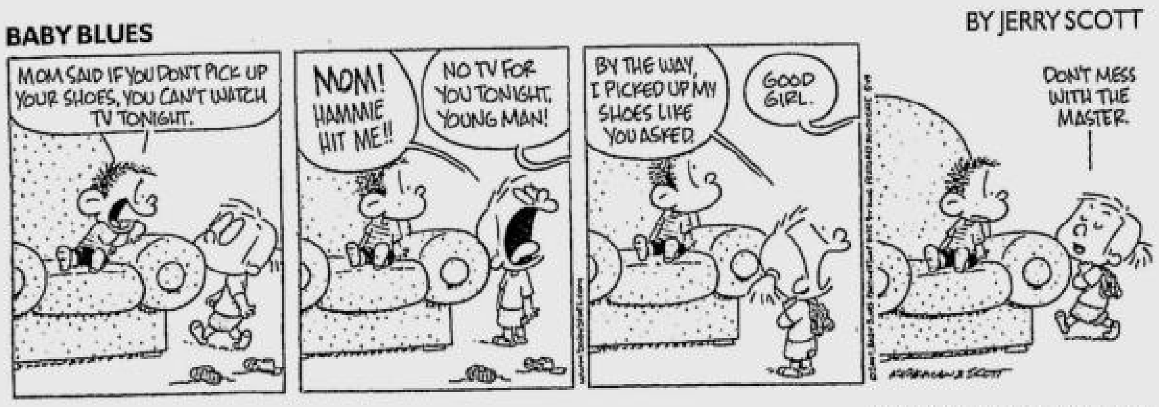
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BA'T HINDI NA NAGAALALA YUN SA RESULTA NG ELECTION?
5/19/07
NAYKOOO! BAKA NAGKAKADAYAAN NA NGA!

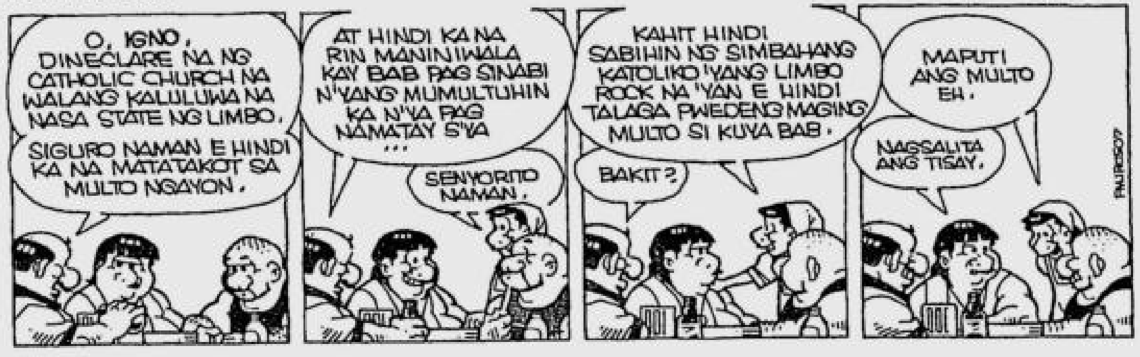
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM SAID IF YOU DON'T PICK UP YOUR SHOES, YOU CAN'T WATCH TV TONIGHT.
MOM! HAMMIE HIT ME!!
NO TV FOR YOU TONIGHT, YOUNG MAN!
BY THE WAY, I PICKED UP MY SHOES LIKE YOU ASKED.
GOOD GIRL.
DON'T MESS WITH THE MASTER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

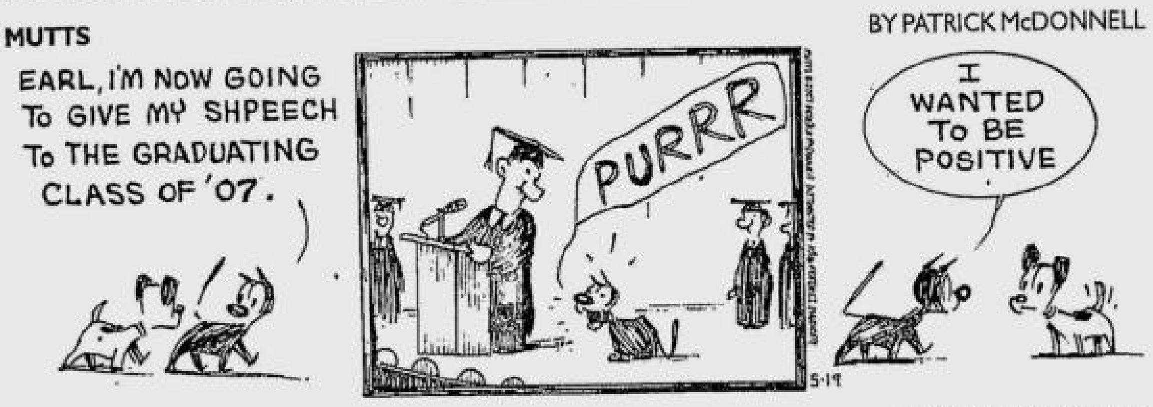
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, IGNO, DINECLARE NA NG CATHOLIC CHURCH NA WALANG KALULUWA NA NASA STATE NG LIMBO.
SIGURO NAMAN E HINDI KA NA MATATAKOT SA MULTO NGAYON.
AT HINDI KA NA RIN MANINIWALA KAY BAB PAG SINABI N'YANG MUMULTUHIN KA N'YA PAG NAMATAY S'YA ...
SENYORITO NAMAN.
KAHIT HINDI SABIHIN NG SIMBAHANG KATOLIKO 'YANG LIMBO ROCK NA 'YAN E HINDI TALAGA PWEDENG MAGING MULTO SI KUYA BAB.
BAKIT?
MAPUTI ANG MULTO EH.
NAGSALITA ANG TISAY.
PMJR2007

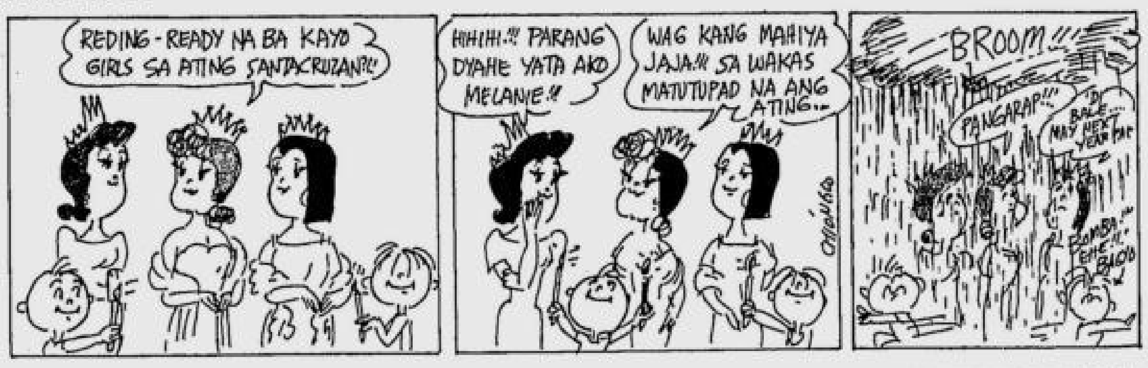
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, I'M NOW GOING To GIVE MY SHPEECH To THE GRADUATING CLASS OF '07.
PURRR
I WANTED To BE POSITIVE
5-19

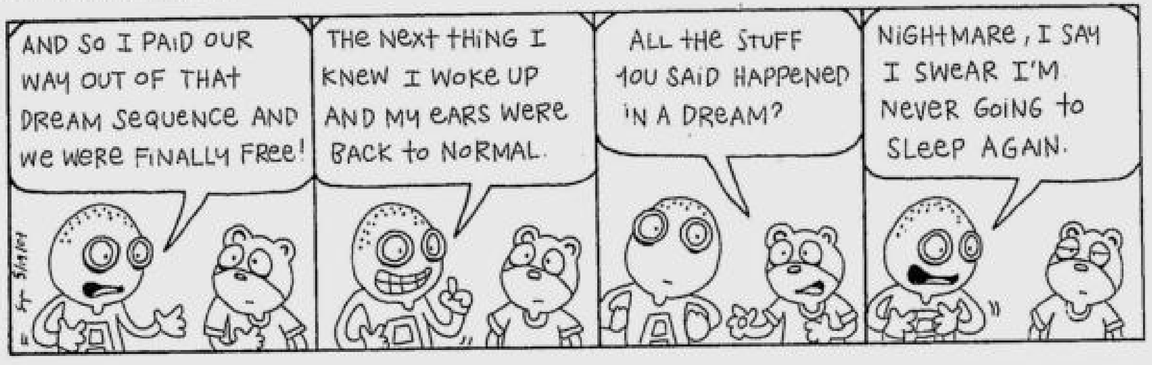
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


REDING - READY NA BA KAYO GIRLS SA ATING SANTACRUZAN?!!
HIHIHI..!! PARANG DYAHE YATA AKO MELANIE!!
WAG KANG MAHIYA JAJA!! SA WAKAS MATUTUPAD NA ANG ATING..
CHIONGLO
BROOM!!!
PANGARAP!!!
DI BALE.. MAY NEXT YEAR PA!
BOMBA!!

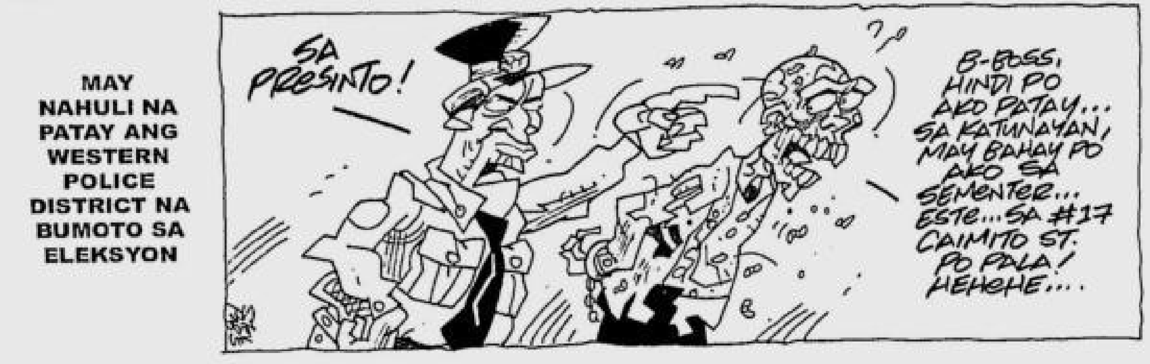
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND So I PAID OUR WAY OUT OF THAT DREAM SEQUENCE AND WE WERE FINALLY FREE!
THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WOKE UP AND MY EARS WERE BACK to NORMAL.
ALL the STUFF YOU SAID HAPPENED IN A DREAM?
NIGHTMARE, I SAY I SWEAR I'M NEVER GOING to SLEEP AGAIN.

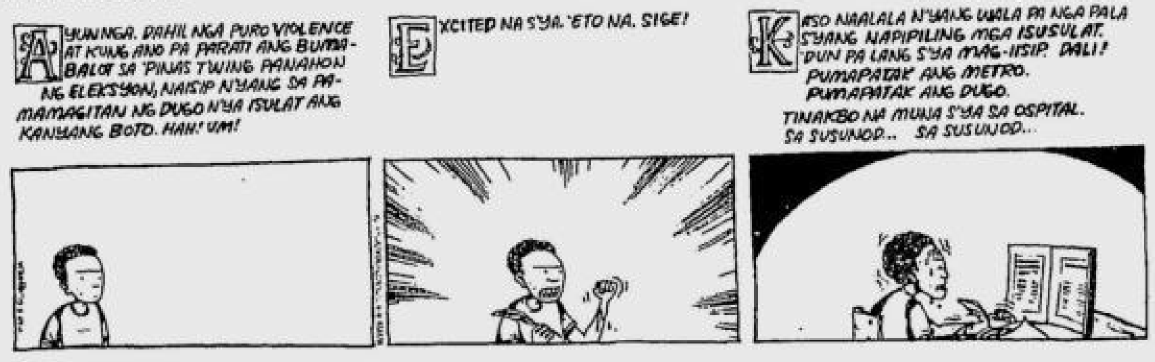
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAY NAHULI NA PATAY ANG WESTERN POLICE DISTRICT NA BUMOTO SA ELEKSYON
SA PRESINTO!
B-BOSS, HINDI PO AKO PATAY... SA KATUNAYAN, MAY BAHAY PO AKO SA SEMENTER... ESTE...SA #17 CAIMITO ST. PO PALA! HEHEHE....

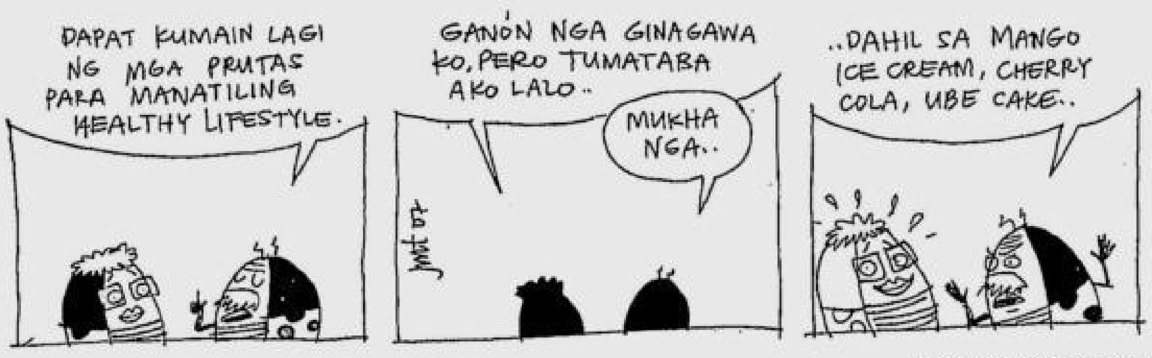
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AYUN NGA. DAHIL NGA PURO VIOLENCE AT KUNG ANO PA PARATI ANG BUMABALOT SA 'PINAS TWING PANAHON NG ELEKSYON, NAISIP N'YANG SA PAMAMAGITAN NG DUGO N'YA ISULAT ANG KANYANG BOTO. HAH! UM!
EXCITED NA S'YA. 'ETO NA. SIGE!
KASO NAALALA N'YANG WALA PA NGA PALA S'YANG NAPIPILING MGA ISUSULAT. 'DUN PA LANG S'YA MAG-IISIP. DALI! PUMAPATAK ANG METRO. PUMAPATAK ANG DUGO.
TINAKBO NA MUNA S'YA SA OSPITAL. SA SUSUNOD... SA SUSUNOD...

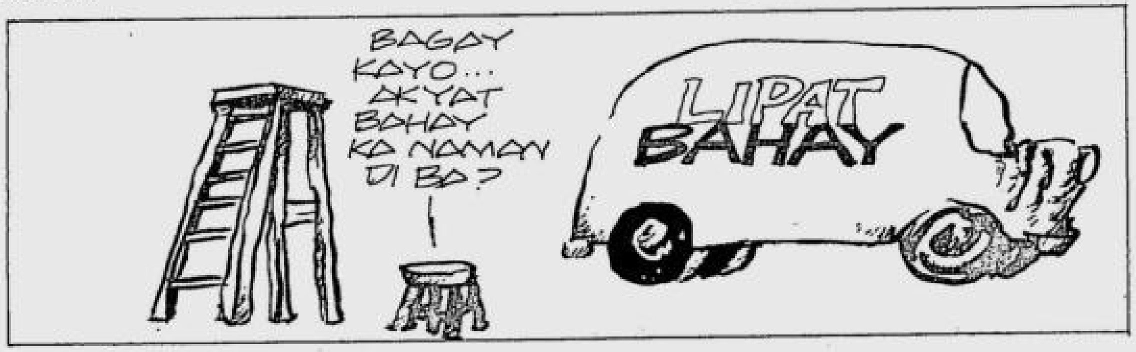
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAPAT KUMAIN LAGI NG MGA PRUTAS PARA MANATILING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.
GANON NGA GINAGAWA KO, PERO TUMATABA AKO LALO..
MUKHA NGA..
..DAHIL SA MANGO ICE CREAM, CHERRY COLA, UBE CAKE..

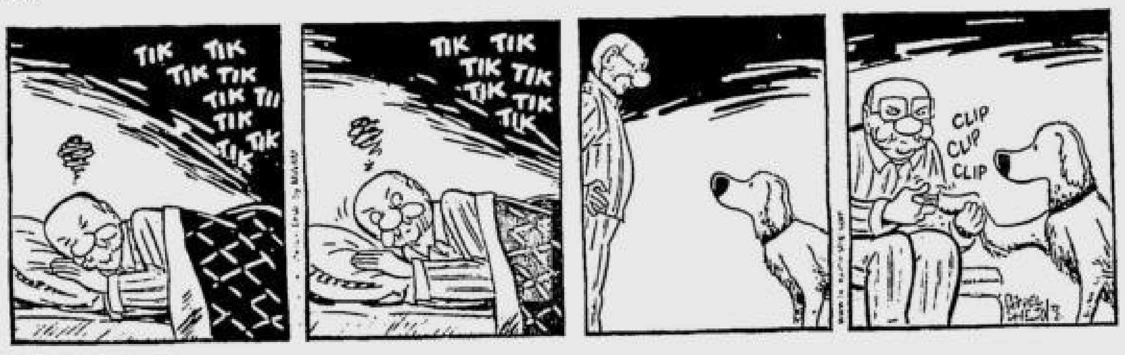
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAGAY KAYO... AKYAT BAHAY KA NAMAN DI BA?
LIPAT BAHAY

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TII TIK TIK TIK
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
CLIP CLIP CLIP

DAILY CROSSWORD

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14			■	15							■	16		
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49			■	50		51	52	53	54					
55			■	56										
57			■	58							■	59		
60			■	61							■	62		

By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

5/19/07

ACROSS
1 Halfway, briefly
4 Tooth problem
11 Mexico Mrs.
14 Enzyme suffix
15 Pleasing
16 MPH word
17 Fictional Philadelphia underdog
19 Like pocket dicts.
20 Physical components
21 Classic Olds
22 Some field workers
23 One at a time
25 Evaluated
30 Because of
31 Honolulu handouts
32 Scriptural manuscripts
34 Mach+ jet
35 Closet items
36 Modus operandi
39 Greenery
40 Lead singer of U2
41 Sleeper's timer
44 Intersecting thoroughfare
46 Environment
48 Dipper
49 Zing
50 Extinct flyer
55 Wallach of "Lord Jim"
56 Cassette deck feature
57 Howard or Wood
58 Missile that's thrown
59 Cash closing?
60 Wool producer
61 Stored, as fodder
62 Writer's writings: abbr.

DOWN
1 Federal officers
2 Atoms of different masses
3 Broken down
4 Actress Milano
5 Tops of overalls
6 Three-handed card game
7 NASCAR driver Yarborough
8 Flows out
9 Open positions
10 Coasts
11 Sprinkle
12 Adjust one's trousers
13 Desert gully
18 Deborah and John
24 Greek letters
26 Myth ending?
27 Type of boom
28 Mystery writer's award
29 Mexican muralist Rivera
33 Street-sign abbr.
35 Website location
36 Carpenter's finishing touch
37 Research tasks
38 High-range singers?
39 Datebook abbr.
40 Shore up
41 Circuit breaker unit
42 Remain in hiding
43 Mountainous
45 Worked doggedly
47 Complete reversal
51 Seasons in Burgundy
52 Bobby Brown hit
53 Spoken
54 Frankie Avalon hit, "__ Dinah"

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	I	T	A	N	■	B	P	O	E	■	H	A	I	R
A	D	O	R	E	■	E	L	L	S	■	Y	U	M	A
L	I	N	E	S	■	R	U	D	E	■	D	R	U	G
C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	S	■	E	R	A	S	E
S	T	E	M	■	R	H	O	■	O	V	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	T	T	A	R	■	V	E	S	S	E	L
A	T	A	R	I	■	R	A	R	E	■	A	E	R	O
G	O	D	S	A	N	D	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	S
E	R	I	C	■	O	T	I	S	■	H	U	R	S	T
E	I	T	H	E	R	■	N	A	M	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	S	M	■	O	P	P	■	N	A	D	A
P	R	O	M	S	■	S	T	A	G	N	A	T	E	S
E	I	R	E	■	C	H	A	R	■	I	T	A	L	Y
A	G	A	R	■	W	O	U	K	■	S	O	L	V	E
L	A	L	A	■	T	O	R	S	■	I	N	L	E	T

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5/18/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of justice. You want to introduce reforms and expose corruption wherever you can. You have lots of energy to research or learn whatever you need to know. You're in tune with your spiritual side and often seek out a teacher. You can look forward to a lovely, socially active year. All relationships (especially marriage) are favored!
Birthdate of: Malcolm X, activist; Jim Lehrer, PBS journalist; Lily Cole, supermodel.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you're negotiating with others about anything today, be careful what you agree to. It's very easy to promise more than you can deliver.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Keep your receipts if you're shopping today. Although it's not like you, you might overspend or buy something you later regret.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Think twice before making promises to partners and close friends today. It's easy to go overboard and overestimate things. Therefore, easy does it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be realistic with co-workers today. You don't want to end up with egg on your face because you exceeded your boundaries in any way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): If you think someone is selling you a bill of goods today, you might be right! Friends or groups might promise you more than they can deliver, but this also can go both ways!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Think twice in discussions with parents, bosses and VIPs today. You'll be tempted to tell them what they want to hear. Don't do this. Stay within the realm of what is possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't let others convince you of something related to religion, politics, philosophy or some kind of snake-oil belief. People are fast and easy with the truth today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you have to divide something or deal with shared property or inheritances, be very careful today. You might give away the farm. Protect your own best interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're very honest, but you're also a big promoter. Today your ruler, Jupiter, opposes Mercury, the planet of communication. This makes things seem to be more optimistic than they really are. (Oops.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you have to agree to deadlines or make promises to clients at work today, it's important that you give yourself a lot of leeway. Be realistic! Err on the side of caution.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be reasonable with children today and not make promises they cannot later fulfill. The same goes for lovers who wish to please each other. (Don't disappoint.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might want to tackle some home repairs today or make improvements to where you live. Modify your grandiose plans. Just do what is doable.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

		8	6					
					5		9	
9		2						
1				7			3	
			8	5	4			
	8			6				2
						4		9
	6		3					
					2	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/19

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	1	9	8	7	6	5	2
6	5	9	1	3	2	7	4	8
8	7	2	6	4	5	1	9	3
2	8	3	5	6	1	4	7	9
9	6	4	7	2	3	8	1	5
7	1	5	8	9	4	2	3	6
3	4	7	2	5	8	9	6	1
5	9	8	4	1	6	3	2	7
1	2	6	3	7	9	5	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/18

Sockie Fernandez makes directorial debut in Cinemalaya entry

By Rica Arevalo

FERNANDEZ (CENTER, WITH MEILY, VERSOZA AND FELEO). "Everything just fell into place."

I DROPPED BY THE BILIBID Prisons set of the Cinemalaya entry, "Gulong," under the helm of TV commercial director, Sockie Fernandez. Cinematographer Lee Meily was sick, but was still upbeat about the shoot despite the intense summer heat. I was surprised to see a sando-clad Gary Valenciano exchanging lines with some kid actors.

I interviewed Sockie another day. She's very grateful for the support of co-producer Butch Jimenez. She explains, "When I told him I was making a Cinemalaya film, he read the script and finished it in one sitting. He told me, 'I have a good feeling about this script—it's a film that should be done!'"

Virtues

While Sockie was extolling Jimenez's virtues, Butch walked by our table. The two were surprised to see each other. Incidentally, they were thinking about the same person to do the film's musical score. Talk about synchronicity!

Sockie shares, "Everything just fell into place—'Gulong' falling on my lap, finding a producer to bankroll the project, getting the best technical people in the business, and not a single talent saying 'no' to me! They believe in the film's message. Everybody said they wanted to do it because of the material."

"Gulong" is about a little boy's quest for a bicycle. The bicycle connects the past to the present and becomes a vehicle for healing old wounds and reviving a love affair that has long been forgotten.

The screenplay was written by Palanca winner, Jeanne Lim, whom Sockie describes as "a wonderful person. She inspires me. Just imagine: Jeanne will undergo a kidney transplant this month, but her mood and disposition are very hopeful. *Nahihiya ako sa sarili ko, kasi,* I easily get depressed over petty things. But, Jeanne's outlook in life is so beautiful! She visits us on the set, and shares her optimism despite her condition."

Professionalism

How was it working with Barbara Perez? She beams: "*Grabe*! I am very impressed with her professionalism! She comes to the set an hour before call time made-up with her costumes ready, and she knows her lines. Everything is *plantsado*. Her dedication to her craft impresses me. I'm honored that she agreed to do this film after many years away from the spotlight."

She adds: "After 'Gulong,' my respect for feature film directors has gone up. I'll never say that TV commercial directors are better—because it's not true! In a full-length movie, you have a script that has 75 sequences—*kailangang pag-aralan mo lahat*! In a commercial, you're done after just 15 frames. A film's 'look' can't save you."

PEREZ AND AREVALO. Auspicious return to acting.

The cast of "Gulong" also includes Robert Arevalo, Tricia Amper, Gardo Verzosa, Odette Khan, Ina Feleo, Antonette Garcia, Ed Sicam, and child actors, Steve Ferno, Joped Concordia, David Joshua Medina, and Iggy Boy Flores.

'Saan Nagtatago Si Happiness?' at StarMall on May 26

BAIS AND TORRE. Topbill movie and concert.

"SAAN NAGTATAGO Si Happiness?," the Cinemalaya digital feature starring Andy Bais, Ricky Davao, Caridad Sanchez and child star, Mica Torre, will be screened again on May 26, 3 p.m. at the StarMall cinema in Pamplona, Las Pinas City. The heartwarming musical dramedy, which was the indie festival's No.1 box-office hit last year, follows the story of Tikyo (Bais), an ice-cream vendor in search of his long-lost mother. The film showing will be followed by a concert starring Bais and Torre, with the special participation of SGLFI's youth.

Sponsoring the back-to-back screening and concert is the Living God Catholic Charismatic Outreach Ministry, which marks its Fourth Out-of-School Youth Teaching Mission this year.

Troubled times

Bro. Boy Tolentino, SLGFI President, muses: "'Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?' will uplift the spirit of Filipinos during these troubled times. The back-to-back event is a fund-raising project whose proceeds will be used to finance the non-formal education of our students." The SLGFI's long-term goal is to build a halfway shelter for kids. The foundation's teaching mission started in 2003 with 21 children, 11 volunteer teachers, and five teaching aides.

Call Sis. Tita Bauca at (02) 872-5947 or 0917 527-4276, or email slgccom@yahoo.com.

Democracy in action in electoral coverage

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR TV NETWORKS SHOULD be complimented for mounting comprehensive coverages of the May 14 elections. With cameras poking into polling precincts all over the land, some cheaters may have been dissuaded from putting their nefarious plans into motion—or were actually caught with their hands in the political cookie jar.

The persuasive TV images of activity on election day must have also encouraged more people to go out and vote. This is a distinct service in the name of democracy in action that similarly deserves commendation.

On the other hand, there were glitches that prevented the TV coverage from being as helpful and competent as it should have been.

Circus barker

First, some on-camera people were obviously ill-suited or poorly-trained for the job. One male anchor sounded like a circus barker. A female counterpart chirped and giggled as though she were hosting a noontime variety show.

It was also disconcerting to see male field reporters sweltering in dark coats at the height of the dry season. We figure that the coats were supposed to add to their authoritative look, but they looked too formal—and hot!—for words.

Fact is, convincing authority and credibility can't be conjured up through the impractical expedient of donning a dark coat, so they shouldn't have been as simplistic as this.

A major problem with the coverage rudely manifested itself after the voting period ended. As the vote count started trickling in from all over the country, TV cameras hungry for news zoomed in on initial figures that were far too small to deserve the avid attention accorded them.

Imagine otherwise self-possessed TV people excitedly announcing that the "leading" local candidate in one precinct had gotten eight votes, while his rival had only three votes—?! This "coverage" isn't just a waste of time, it's also unintended "trending" that makes viewers believe that it's a portent of voting patterns to come.

Nothing of the sort

Fact is, of course, it could mean nothing of the sort, since the first, few votes are just that—the first, few votes—and may not portend anything at all!

What the networks should have done to more productively "cover" this low-news part of the process was to prepare additional features about different aspects and issues related to the political exercise, to air while the vote count was gathering enough momentum to finally merit coverage on TV.

Another problem involved "non-professional" TV anchors from other fields. They may have had high credibility, but some of them didn't know how to handle the TV medium, to cover up for glitches, etc. Thus, their excessively aw-shucks behavior messed up the coverage, and ended up confusing some viewers, instead of enlightening them.

We must also note that some channels' "coverage" bordered on the outlandish. For instance, one panel of "experts" consulted on candidates' electoral prospects turned out to be made up of—fortune tellers!

Not good enough

We end with a general observation: Aside from individual glitches, we note that quite a number of on-camera people weren't sufficiently trained for the task at hand. They did their best, but in some cases, it wasn't good enough.

We trust that, in preparation for the next electoral coverage, out TV networks will zero in, not on superficial elements like wearing dark coats in the hustings, but on the substantial skills and issues that *really* count.

Magical movies move me

By Behn Cervantes

ONLY A FEW FILMS MANAGE TO move me. Basically, it's the theme that captures my mind and heart. The first movie that comes to mind was "Battle of Algiers" by the great Italian director, Gillo Pontecorvo.

It may well have been the times when "Algiers" was shown. I had just gotten involved with Gintong Silahis, the cultural arm of the Samahan Demokratiko ng Kabataan. The film made theories about politics, economics, history and culture come to life—all of sudden, they had faces, blood and guts! The ethnic elements used in the people's struggle gave the film its effective David versus Goliath conflict. Imperialism was looked upon as the nation's biggest enemy!

"The Battle of Algiers" had a documentary format, so you expected its footage to have been culled from historical sources. Its tough texture was appropriate, the camera was not always steady, and the sequences were often connected by subtitles.

Information

However, its final credits stated that not a single part of the film was a documentary, and the information took my breath away! I saw it for five straight days, often sitting in the darkened theater for more than one screening.

Not long after, I saw "They Shoot Horses Don't They?," starring Jane Fonda, who was then deeply involved in leftist advocacies like the anti-Vietnam War movement. The gripping film depicted how a group of people, when pushed against the wall, grasps at straws to survive. It likewise showed the interplay between commerce and economic desperation.

Fonda, Michael Sarandon and the rest of the movie's large cast were nothing short of superb. So after the showing, I walked around Rizal ave. to absorb its full impact, before I joined friends for beer at Indios Bravos to rave about the film.

REDGRAVE. Supported unpopular causes.

Vanessa Redgrave had become a personal favorite when she starred in Antonioni's "Blow Up." The statuesque actress had beauty, class, character, principles, and enviable pedigree. Despite her lineage, she openly supported unpopular causes. Why, she even supported Palestine! So, when she played the title role in "Isadora," I rushed to see the film on opening day.

KILEY. Starred in "The Little Prince."

Contrast

The magical motion picture, "The Little Prince," had a similar effect on me. Richard Kiley was perfect in the role of the pilot, exploiting his stature to contrast with the vulnerability and mystic charm of the young actor who portrayed the Little Prince.

I must have inhaled some of the movie's fine vibes, because I felt wonderful, hopeful and truly inspired after watching it!

Living in harmony

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE WORLD IS FULL OF CONflicts, so we need to learn how to prevent and resolve them. Our spiritual teacher has given us words of wisdom to help us get through them:

Passing judgment or being critical of others is a hindrance to humility and tolerance. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu teaches that a man can practice true spirituality if he is devoid of false prestige. He should be ready to show respect for others. A materialistic person is always worried that he may lose face if people disrespect him. He always wants to be seen in a good light.

If others see our faults, we should accept that we do have them. If we realize this and understand that the Supreme Person loves us unconditionally, we will be very forgiving of other people's faults, too.

Imperfections

Is it an offense to see another person's imperfections? We should be able to distinguish the difference between noticing faults and being judgmental. A wise person may see another person's faults, but he does not feel superior and remains tolerant because he's aware of his own imperfections. He focuses on his own spiritual journey.

Does tolerance mean not speaking out or accepting other people's mistakes? No. Just because a person is tolerant doesn't mean he doesn't argue when needed. Is it offensive to suggest or offer an opinion if we disagree? No. We should have a good working relationship with others, and accept that each person has weaknesses. Problematic situations have different solutions. Don't expect everyone to do things our way, because different individuals have different ways of doing things.

How do we apply this knowledge on a practical basis? When making decisions, accept that someone is in charge—he's responsible for getting the best results. His way may be different from others, but that doesn't make it wrong.

Final decision

If you think a person is wrong, please keep in mind that you're not the only one who wants to succeed. Speak out respectfully, but avoid criticizing. Focus instead on the issue at hand. If your idea isn't accepted, don't argue needlessly. Repetition is just a waste of time. Don't hold grudges. Respect the final decision and try to work in harmony.

A job requires more than one person to succeed. Even if you think you are the smartest person in the world, you still need to work with other people. Everyone has something to offer. If you make a mistake, apologize and rectify the situation. We don't have to solve our problems by battling with one another all the time. Let us learn to live in peace and harmony.

Season of hit sequels

From page H4

include the voices of Justin Timberlake as Artie, Princess Fiona's long-lost cousin; Amy Sedaris as Cinderella; Eric Idle as Merlin the Magician, Ian McShane as Captain Hook, and "Saturday Night Live's" Amy Poehler, Cheri Oteri and Maya Rudolph as Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel, respectively.

They join an already colorful animated menagerie that includes Eddie Murphy as Donkey, and Antonio Banderas as Puss in Boots. Shrek (Mike Myers) and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) have their hands full dealing with their ever expanding universe of friends and foes!

Other much-awaited sequels are about to start their run on movie screens, making it likely that Film Year 2007 will end up being called the Year of the Hit Sequels.

Survey

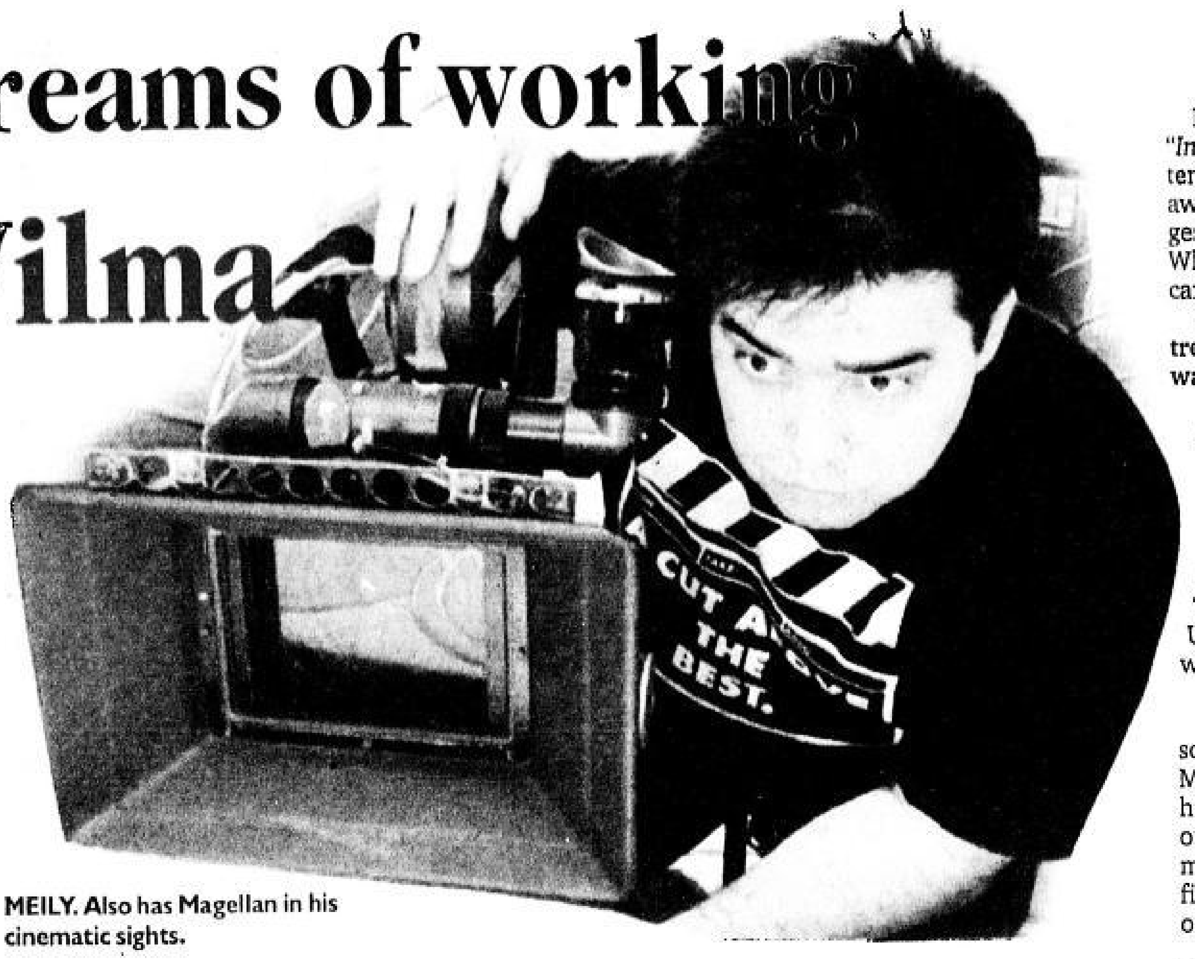
Most eagerly anticipated of all according to a survey of viewers is "Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End."

If the new Johnny Depp starter lives up to expectations, it could provide the final blow in the one-two-three punch of box-office triumphs that could indeed make 2007 the film season for hit sequels.

—And, let's not forget, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is just around the movie corner!

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Mark Meily dreams of working with Nora & Vilma



MEILY. Also has Magellan in his cinematic sights.

By Ronald G. Mangubat

DIRECTOR MARK MEILY believes that a Filipino director can claim that he has already accomplished something only if he has directed local cinema's two female movie icons—Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos.

"I have two comedy films in mind starring those two living legends," the 40-year-old director muses. "In fact, there's a funny screenplay that writer Chris Martinez and I thought up called "The Nora Aunor School of Acting," which is written in the mold of 'Being John Malkovich.' Of course, it requires Aunor to do a cameo."

Bright ideas

That movie will have to wait because the country's superstar is still abroad. Meanwhile, director Meily's head is spinning with other bright ideas for future projects. In the pipeline is a remake of Dolphy's '80s dramedy, "Ang Tatay Kong Nanay," with Michael V in the title role. Another movie revolves around Magellan's travels. ("*Ang galing ng story ni* Magellan—betrayal, mutiny, affairs! I'm doing research on the subject.")

Trust Mark's incendiary passion to seethe through when he talks about his projects. After all, among the current crop of young movie directors, he's the only one whose two full-length films, "Crying Ladies" and "La Visa Loca," got the coveted A grade from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

When he's not writing or megging movies, Meily is busy directing TV commercials. "My bread and butter," he admits. Married to ace cinematographer Lee Meily, with whom he has three kids, the Paris-educated filmmaker says his partnership with Lee has remained stimulating and dynamic after all these years. Excerpts:

Have you always wanted to direct films? Have you always been a film buff?

When I was in high school, I wanted to be an animator, but all my friends wanted to become doctors. I took up Fine Arts in college and shifted schools from UST to UP.

One summer, I decided to take classes at Mowelfund, where I was introduced to indie films. I have always loved movies. When I was 10, my mom allowed me to watch "Dog Day Afternoon" during a typhoon. and I remember how much in awe I was of it!

You went to France after Mowelfund?

In 1988, I made several short films, and I was invited to show them in Belgium. That European experience blew my mind, so I knocked on European embassies' doors hoping to get a scholarship. The French embassy said they had an opening for a film scholarship, but the hitch was, I had to be fluent in French. I told them I was—*kahit hindi totoo (laughs)*. When I got accepted, I was forced to learn French fast!

What did you learn in Paris?

It's not much different from what I learned at Mowelfund. A full-shot in France is the same as a full-shot here and in Hollywood. But, the exposure of being in Paris really made the difference. I watched classic European films for free.

When they described Rembrandt lighting, it was easy to go to museums and see an original Rembrandt painting for comparison. What struck me was the use of semiotics or symbols. You don't shoot anything that has no intrinsic role in the story. I cherished the debates because the French loved discourses—you have to take a stand!

We heard that prior to shooting "Crying Ladies," everything was drawn on storyboards...

Yes. There are directors who feel *na nali*-limit *sila ng* storyboards. For me, it's like being an architect. You draw a plan, and your staff sees what the plan is.

How did you feel when your first two movies got the A grade from the CEB?

There were people who said, "*Hindi naman taga-pelikula `yan, e!*" So, when that happened, I felt like an outsider getting accepted into the industry. Curiously, there were people who said, "Don't tell people you got the A grade, *kasi* it's a curse!" *(laughs)*

How was it like working with Sharon?

I was star-struck at first, *kasi* Sharonian *ako*. I even told Sharon, "When I was in high school, *ang* audition piece *ko sa* glee club *ay ang* hit song *mo na* 'High School Life.' *(laughs)* Some people say fake *ang pagka*-sweet *nya*, but I've proven that it's not!

How did you manage to coax a good performance from Robin Padilla in "La Visa Loca"?

Honestly, people warned me: "*Ingat ka kay* Robin *dahil may* tendency *na mag*-OA *yan!* I was aware of that, so there were some gestures *na pinabawasan ko*. When Robin is directed well, he can be very good.

Among local actors and actresses, with whom do you want to work?

I have a feeling that we don't have enough great actors. My friend and I were discussing which actor would be perfect to play Ninoy Aquino if his life were to be filmed—and we couldn't think of anyone! Then, it hit us—*si* Jay Ilagan! Unfortunately, he's no longer with us.

Who are your influences?

I learned a lot from Bing Lao in scriptwriting. In directing, it's Mike de Leon. I've worked with him but, unfortunately, I became one of the casualties of his famous temper *(laughs)*! I wasn't fired—I was just relegated to do other work.

Who's better: Brocka or Bernal?

I'd go for Bernal. I think his films have more power—and they're able to transcend time. I talked to both of them when they were still alive and I connected more with Bernal.

Name five movies, local or foreign, that you really like.

Mike de Leon's "Batch '81," "Sunset Boulevard," Pedro Almodovar's "Talk to Her," Zhang Yimou's "Quiji," and Ang Lee's "Eat Man. Drink Woman."

Do you have an artist's temper?

No. I'm a very cool director. Some people say I should be more forceful, but that's not who I am!

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Season of hits sequels

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER "SPIDER-MAN 3" SCORCHED MOVIE screens and broke longstanding box-office records worldwide, it's "Shrek 3's" turn to prove that sequels are the cat's meow in the film business these days.

Will "Shrek 3" top Spidey's latest screen triumph? Not likely. It's smaller and less spectacular in scope, and should do very good—but not record-breaking—business.

Which is not to say that it isn't going to gross in the mega-millions. What started as a short story for children written by William Steig has become one of the most beloved film franchises in the biz.

Popularity

What accounts for "Shrek's" popularity? We got an insight into this when we covered the making of the first "Shrek" movie at the DreamWorks studios in Los Angeles. When we met the movie's two co-directors, we were struck by the fact that they were so young.

We realized that producer Jeffrey Katzenberg had specifically tapped young directors for the movie because he wanted it to click, not just with kids, but with teens and young adults.

That's exactly what happened. The first "Shrek" movie was hip, brash, irreverent and edgy even as it told its oddly heartwarming story of a social misfit of an ogre who amazingly ends up with the beautiful Princess Fiona.

The second "Shrek" adventure was as popular with viewers as the first film, confirming its makers' hunch that they had developed a film franchise that would be embraced by viewers for a profitable number of sequels to come.

"AT WORLD'S END." One-two-three punch?

It's likely that the franchise won't dry up after its latest sequel, which has gotten good notices from preview audiences in the States. Aside from its makers' proven gift for entertaining and involving storytelling, the new movie benefits from the latest advances in animation technology, some of which was invented at the DreamWorks studios.

Royalty

On point of storytelling, the series' resident green ogre has come a long way from the lonely swamp from whence he came. He's learned to feel, love, and interact with a great variety of people, and even to ascend to the rarefied heights of royalty, thanks to Princess Fiona.

This third time around, the story focuses on Shrek's fear that he won't make a good father. In "Shrek 3," our hero's family expands to

SEASON/ H3

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